

The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

SEP/OCT 2013

VOL. 33, NO. 4



President's Corner by Maureen F. Harvey

A New Year of Opportunities and Challenges

Welcome to the start of another fine Maryland birding year; welcome to all members, new and old alike. May you enjoy and share with others the beauty and peculiarities of Maryland's birdlife. You're the essential individuals behind MOS's efforts to advance projects that support birds and their habitats in our state and educate others about the role of birds in the balance of nature and the corresponding need to allow space for birds and wildlife.

What do you want MOS to encompass in the future? What should change and what should stay the same? These are some of the big questions being undertaken by our newly re-formed Long Range Planning Committee, under the leadership of Chair Colin Rees (Anne Arundel). You have the opportunity to express your opinions via an online survey set up by Past President Mark Johnson (Harford). Please seek out the notice announcing the questionnaire on page 2.

Volunteers are the core of our non-profit organization. MOS's continuity depends on you. Please seek out the article "*MOS Is Looking for a Few Good ... Volunteers*" located elsewhere in this issue. I challenge you to consider what you can contribute to keep MOS alive and healthy, and take action to make it so.

Partnering with DNR to Help Bobolinks by Maryanne Dolan - Cecil Bird Club

Fair Hill NRMA, consisting of some 5,656 acres, is tucked up against the Pennsylvania border and only a half mile from Delaware. William DuPont, Jr., acquired the farmland principally for fox hunting and used it frequently up until his death. In 1975, the state of Maryland purchased the estate from his heirs, and Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area was created, managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

Many consider Fair Hill the crown jewel of Cecil County. Wide, open spaces, shady lanes, rolling meadows, babbling brooks, Fair Hill has it all. Such varied habitat attracts a myriad of users: Equestrians, first and foremost. After all, it was originally fox hunting territory. But hikers come to explore the miles and miles of trails. Fishermen (and women!) fish for trout, dogs and their

owners are everywhere, nature lovers who just want a stroll, boy/girl scouts troops, plant enthusiasts....the list goes on and on. Somewhere in that mélange are birders. —

The Cecil Bird Club has long favored Fair Hill. Several members live nearby and consider it their neighborhood spot. Others get there for field trips, a day's outing, or special events.

But its popularity, while a blessing for users, is sometimes a curse for birds. For several years Bobolinks have been seen in several meadows (known informally to bird club members, as 'the Bobolink fields'). Indeed, the Breeding Bird Atlas identified the area as one of the few places Bobolinks were breeding outside of Western Maryland. We'd spot the Bobolinks in May and cheer. Come June the cheering turned to chagrin. The fields had been mowed! Whatever had been there was gone.

Two years ago the club decided to act. We assembled facts regarding Bobolink breeding and approached Fair Hill NRMA management. Kurt Schwarz, MOS Conservation Chair, supported our efforts with a fact-filled letter of his own. Management was receptive, but had concerns: mowing was crucial to control of invasive weeds. David Francis, bird club member and a retired member of the faculty in the Biology Department at the University of Delaware, proposed a solution: members would patrol the fields and remove offensive Johnson Weed. Seven not-so-hardy bird club members did just that on June 4th. Have you ever walked a meadow knee-high in grasses? Trust me, it ain't easy!

Up and down we went. Over and over and over again. I won't dwell on the several really rude comments made on my inability to walk a straight line. How can anyone be sure it wasn't them who crossed over into my path? But after a few rows, I was assigned to the far right lane and to picking up markers placed to show where we had previously walked.

The good news: We can confirm that Bobolinks are breeding at Fair Hill. Except for two females and two males at the other end of a field who seemed to be having some sort of domestic dispute, we saw mostly male Bobolinks. We got a little too close to three nests, but we moved away and the females quickly returned. I was one of the ones who got too close. I looked down and there it was: a nest with five beautiful eggs (see photo). We all took a peek and moved away. But that one nest was worth the hours of drudgery. Proof positive that Bobolinks are breeding at Fair Hill.

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The moral of this story? We can make a difference. Rachel Temby, the Fair Hill Manager, was willing to listen to our concerns. Actually, Rachel was more than willing. She went way beyond the call of duty in juggling and cajoling to give the bobos time to complete their breeding cycle. Carl Larsen, who holds the hay contract, worked hard to adjust his mowing schedule, saving the Bobolink field for last. Bird club members Sean McCandless and David Francis not only spent hours monitoring the fields, but put those hours to good use by educating passers-by on the needs of our grassland birds. By the time I got there, every jogger, dog walker, and horse rider I encountered paused to comment on the Bobolinks. Not a few proudly pointed out the flashy males.

So there it is...a success story: DNR staff, local birders, and park users...everyone willing to pitch in and give Mother Nature a hand. And Bobolinks are the winners. The final tally for the 2013 breeding season? We believe there were twenty Bobolink nests in the fields set aside for them. From June 26 through July 2nd, large, mixed flocks of females and juveniles were observed, with smaller numbers observed from July 2 through 5. A final flight took place on July 17th, but we believe these were 'do-over' nests. Five Grasshopper Sparrow nests were plotted. It's a little difficult to determine the success of those nests, but we believe at least a few fledged chicks. These little guys will be one of our top priorities next year.



Bobolink nest, 4 June 2013, Fair Hill NRMA, Cecil County.

Invitation to Express Your Opinion on the Future of MOS

MOS's Long Range Planning Committee would like to know more about you, our members. Who are you and what is important to you? What should MOS look like in the near future and the years ahead? To gather some of these data, Colin Rees prepared a short membership questionnaire, and Mark Johnson loaded it into a free and confidential online survey service. Your answers will be anonymous. Please take a few minutes to help the Committee. Here's the link:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XLG5QGC>

MOS Is Looking for a Few Good ... Volunteers by Maureen Harvey, MOS President

A volunteer organization -- i.e., the Maryland Ornithological Society -- can only function if members come forward to help when a need exists. Please consider whether you or another MOS member you know would be suited to one of the following open positions. Most activities are accomplished using e-mail (or phone) with occasional face-to-face meetings. Contact any MOS officer with your suggestions or offer to serve. The MOS Manual of Operations and By-Laws are both available online and provide descriptions of MOS positions. Please answer the call by contacting Maureen Harvey (410-795-3117 or president@mdbirds.org), any other MOS officer, or your local chapter.

Janet Shields has announced that she will be stepping down as **MOS Secretary and also MOS Conference Committee Chair** at the end of her current term (ends August 2014). She especially would like someone to come forward very soon to learn the ins and outs of MOS Conference planning, as the Committee will begin the nitty-gritty planning of the 2014 Conference real soon.

Communications Group Leader - coordinates activities related to the MOS publications (Maryland Yellowthroat, Maryland Birdlife, Yellowbook, Field Checklist) and MOS' website. Works with MOS's fine cadre of editors and webmaster, discussing new ideas, and fostering updates and improvements.

Development/Membership Committee Chair - This function could be managed by a small committee or one dynamic individual and addresses the following needs: How do we work to publicize the activities of MOS beyond our membership? What needs to be done to attract and retain new members?

Investment Committee Chair - receives monthly statements for review, tracks activities of our investment manager (RBC Wealth Management) to ensure MOS' investments are performing satisfactorily and in keeping with our chosen "green screen", arranges periodic face-to-face meetings with RBC and the full committee (which includes the President, Treasurer, and two long-serving committee members). Keeps the MOS Board informed of investment status.

Nominations Committee Members - a couple of new members are needed. This committee finds replacement officers for MOS. For the 2014 elections, MOS will need a new Vice President as well as a new Secretary.

Scholarship Committee Member - Committee Chair Kate Tufts especially needs someone from the Eastern Shore to complete this committee.



Birds of Note – by Les Roslund

Many Maryland birders have found great joy this summer by successfully seeing and hearing a beautiful PAINTED BUNTING that chose to linger in perfect habitat beside Old Pond Road in Prince George's County. Linda Weir of Bowie discovered the bird fairly early in the morning on July 6 and circulated photos of it before noon. For the rest of the day, and for the following two weeks birders from near and far have braved the heat to seek this bird. The bird, a beautifully marked male in full breeding plumage, has flitted about in the same general area, occasionally interacting with an INDIGO BUNTING but mainly singing lustily, as if in hopes of attracting a mate even though the odds for that are not high here in Maryland. The viewing region is beside the WB&A Railroad Trail, providing easy access for the continuous parade of hopeful and then happy birders who are seeking this bird. As of July 21 the fun was still going on (Editor's note—still being reported on *mdbirding* on August 1).

In early May a RED PHALAROPE paid a surprise visit to two mid-Maryland sites and though it did not stay long, it was around long enough to brighten the days of quite a few Maryland birders. The first sighting was reported on May 8 from Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick County by Don Simonson of Montgomery County. Don was with three other birders, and credited Stan Fisher with being the first to notice the bird. Don wrote that the bird was spinning while feeding, had a short bill that was definitely not needle-like; showed red underparts, and included diagnostic red plumage visible all the way back on the right rear flank. Other birders immediately swarmed to Lilypons to enjoy the sighting. The final sighting at this location was reported at 4:30 p.m. on May 9.

At 6:30 p.m. on May 9 a RED PHALAROPE, probably the same bird as above, was reported by Tim Carney and Terry Miller at Swan Harbor Farm Park, Harford County. They credited Josh Emm of Harford County with having found the bird and aimed them toward it. Excellent photos were obtained. The visit was quite brief and occurred late in the day. Attempts to relocate the

bird the next day were not successful. This was only the second county record for the species. The first had come in 2012 after Hurricane Sandy.

From May 11 to May 30 a sequence of reports floated out from Howard County regarding calls of a HENSLOW'S SPARROW being heard in a hay field beside Jennings Chapel Road. Tom Feild and Geraldine King provided the first report on May 11 after listening to the song for around 30 minutes as part of May Count. Though the bird sang persistently during that time, it did not allow itself to be seen. The first actual sighting was attained by Kevin Graff on May 26. Kevin's report brought out many birders over the next two days. The calling continued and was heard by many but there were only a few brief sightings. Eventually the hayfield would surely be cut. On May 30 Elaine Hendricks provided the final report. She heard the bird but did not see it. Soon the mowers arrived and ended the birding fun. Proof of nesting of this species in Howard County will have to wait for at least another year.

May 18 was this year's date for the spring version of the Howard County "Big Day" trip. The following quote from participant Bonnie Ott beautifully captures the joy brought by one of their findings. Bonnie wrote: "As many years as I have done the Howard 'Big Day' trip, I have never had the pleasure of having such a remarkable experience as with the BLACK RAIL we found. We played through SORA and VIRGINIA RAILS in hopes of getting a response. Then for fun I commented 'play them all' as a joke. As soon as the BLACK RAIL call played we heard a vigorous answer from the grass nearby. If only you could have seen us in our astonishment! We immediately stopped the tape and listened as the bird called repeatedly for many minutes. We waited for a time and then moved closer to try to get a visual. We then played the tape one more time and the bird responded. The call at this time changed. We stopped the tape and backed off to leave the bird alone. The audio was enough to verify this as a new Howard County record."

Many birders in Maryland shared the joy of the irruptive species that visited here during the past winter and spring. Some of the birds lingered quite late into the spring, and such was the case for PINE SISKINS that had found the generous feeders of Don Simonson of Darnestown, Montgomery County. Don's SISKINS were present daily from October 2012 until May 23, 2013. And on May 30 his home may have actually played host to a SISKIN fledgling. Don reported the bird as: "--- clearly a PINE SISKIN, a pale one, fine streaks all over, small finch beak. --- It also had a disarranged appearance, with small tufts of feathers or down protruding from the flanks and back. It appeared smaller than typical SISKINS. --- When it flushed, it flew about 10 feet into a thick juniper and disappeared. Its tail was noticeably extremely short. --- The wings displayed strong yellow flashes. So did the tail." Though PINE SISKINS are known to nest in Western Maryland, they do not normally nest elsewhere in the state. Hence Don's visitor was very special indeed.

County bird lists of Maryland received a welcome boost on June 11 when a new CLIFF SWALLOW nesting colony was discovered

2014 MOS Conference

Holiday Inn
Solomons, Maryland
May 16-18, 2014

NEEDED: A New Conference Chair

2014 will be my last conference. We are looking for a new chair. Anyone interested should contact me or Maureen Harvey

Janet Shields, 410-901-1039, janetbill@prodigy.net
Maureen Harvey, 410-795-3117, tangara@comcast.net

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right on the county line separating Talbot and Caroline Counties. Neither county has recent records of nesting by this species. The new site is on the Route 328 bridge that spans Tuckahoe Creek between Easton in Talbot County and Denton in Caroline County. On June 11 four active CLIFF SWALLOW nests were found on the upstream side of this bridge. All nests were in Caroline County, but some of the swallows conveniently flew into nearby Talbot County during the June 11 visit. Later they have provided similar cooperation during the visits of many other birders. The location of the new nesting colony was discovered by Les Roslund of Easton, Talbot County.

The species list for Maryland in any season usually shows great birds being seen only in Worcester County, and sometimes being seen by just one or two persons. The following three sightings have been selected from amongst the many that have been reported.

- On May 26 Mike Burchett reported a fly-by of a WHITE-FACED IBIS. This bird was seen from the E.A. Vaughn WMA-North, Worcester County. Mikey Lutmerding of Croom, Prince George's County, was the original finder of the bird.

- On June 12 there was a fly-over of a MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD that was successfully photographed as it passed above the beach near the ranger station of Assateague Island National Seashore, Worcester County. The lucky observer/photographer was Brooks Onley, who described the bird as a large, soaring, dark bird with a short body; long, narrow, tapered wings and very long trailing tail feathers. It had a white breast and head and a long bill. Skilled birders who saw copies of the photographs confirmed the identification.

- On June 24 Matt Hafner of Harford County and others saw a GULL-BILLED TERN in flight over Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester County. The bird was a little bigger than some nearby COMMON TERNS and showed longer, flappier wings. It was pale gray above with some dusky black markings on a few outer primaries. The body was white. The head had an all black cap and the bill was short and all black.

NEW OPPORTUNITY - Attend ABA San Diego Rally Oct 2013 and help MOS, too!

The American Birding Association's Events Coordinator George Armistead is an MOS member. He has invited MOS members to participate in the ABA's San Diego Rally (which can include a Salton Sea extension) this October (San Diego 12-16, Salton Sea 17-18). For any MOS member that registers for the San Diego Rally between July 10 and October 1, 2013, the ABA will contribute \$100 back to one of the following MOS funds: Sanctuary, Scholarship, or YMOS (each registrant will choose). Details about the rally and cost are available at: <http://events.aba.org/aba-birding-rally-san-diego-ca/>. If you wish to register, please provide MOS President Maureen Harvey (president@mdbirds.org or 410-795-3117) with your name(s), contact information, and choice of fund to support. She'll compile the list for George, who will then get in touch with you about registering and submitting follow-up checks to MOS.

2013 Annual MOS Conference

Ramada Conference Center, Edgewood, MD

February 24-26

by Janet Shields

Our 2013 conference in Harford County was attended by 180 birders. Dennis Kirkwood ably assisted by Matt Hafner and Phil Powers did an outstanding job of arranging field trips. There were thirty field trip locations plus trips to Hart-Miller, a butterfly trip, a photography trip, and a banding station to visit, there were many choices to diversify habitat. Seven of these field trip locations have been preserved through the actions and/or influence of the Harford Land Trust, the recipient of our Silent Auction & Raffle proceeds. Unfortunately due to high winds, the kayak and pontoon boat trips had to be cancelled.

Dave Webb led the Harford County Listers' trip, an all-day trip enjoyed by MOS members. This year it was a little different. George Radcliffe and some of his YMOS kids also participated. They had just finished participating in the World Series of Birding. Four YMOS team went and all did well with two of these teams beating most of the adult WSOF adult teams. Needless to say, the adults on the Listers' trip enjoyed birding with some remarkable young YMOS members of exceptional skill.

This year the night field trips were handled differently. They were limited to twenty people and everyone signed up in advance. It turned out there were three trips. On Saturday there was the Harford Glen Owl Prowl and Nighthawks lead by Dennis Kirkwood and the Swan Harbor for Rails trip lead by Matt Hafner and John Gallo. After working tirelessly to try to get approval from Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Dave Webb was able to arrange a whip trip to APG on Friday night. The next problem was how to fairly decide who should go on each trip. Dave again came through and set up a lottery in his computer that would randomly choose the participants. It worked beautifully. Thanks, Dave W!

Maryanne Dolan did her usual excellent job of putting together a conference workshop for Friday afternoon. This year it was past MOS President Mark Johnson who gave a Warbler ID Workshop on Friday for sixty people. Of these there were twenty lucky people who went on a half-day warbler field trip with Mark to Perryman Peninsula on Saturday.

Friday evening Dave Ziolkowski, a Harford native, gave an edifying talk entitled "*Counting those who count on us...but are you sure your numbers really talk sense?*" Since Dave has become so busy at work, it makes it particularly nice he was able to be our keynote speaker and also lead some field trips. Thanks, Dave Z!

We were very lucky again this year to have Matt Mathis of the Audubon Naturalist Society Bookstore at Woodend Sanctuary bring an outstanding assortment of books, binoculars, bird feeders, socks, and much more. Matt was with us at our winter conference last year and we were very glad to have him back.

This year Jean Wheeler, Harford member, put together a wonderful

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Silent Auction and Raffle. Quite a few of the Harford members helped her in this endeavor. Special mention must be made of Elaine Beery and Emily Wilberg who went out and actively solicited high-quality donations (see below). They were very successful. Jean did an excellent job of coordinating the auction and raffle. I'm very grateful she was willing to take on the job for 2013. It was a big commitment. She will be difficult to replace for 2014. I also want to thank our MOS chapters for going all out to solicit donations from their members. The Silent Auction and Raffle Beneficiary was the Harford Land Trust. Thanks to Jean Wheeler and all the people who helped make it a success, we were able to write a check for \$1,825 to them.

As always, the Research Poster Session was well received. There were three posters presented and two surprise posters. Colin Rees showed up unexpectedly with one. But probably the most popular of all was the unexpected showing of the YMOS kids with George Radcliffe. After a long drive to get here early and leave on their all-day field trip, they got back in time to give their presentation. Quite a few people enjoyed it and were surprised at their knowledge.

Another person who stepped up to help was Ellen Lawler. She took over the pin contest with very little notice and did an exceptional job. John Malcolm had run this contest from the beginning and Ellen was able to take over without a lot of guidance and make it work. John would be happy to know the pin contest will continue.

Our conference ended with Bob Ringler doing his excellent job of wrapping things up for us on Sunday. The final tally was 148 species.

This year we had over sixty volunteers. The conference cannot be done without them. Thank you. There were two people I missed this year – Lou DeMouy and John Malcolm. Both had deep ties to the conference. When I took over Lou was the one who explained how things worked and was always there when needed. I got to know John a little later and was impressed with his in-depth knowledge of MOS and its history. John was also there when needed. I learned a lot from both.

Silent Auction & Raffle Donations for the 2013 Conference

Beth Alpin, Artist – a stained glass panel of a Black-crowned Night-Heron; *A Washington Bird Club Member*

Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill - \$25 gift certificate

The Bayou Restaurant - \$25 gift certificate, Havre de Grace, MD

Bill Bateman's Bistro - \$10 gift certificate, Havre de Grace, MD

Steiner Pierce Decoy – A Snow Goose decoy carved by Steiner Pierce of Havre de Grace, donated by his wife Lovey Pierce.

Steiner Pierce Pair of Decoys – A pair of Blue-wing Teal decoys carved by Steiner Pierce of Havre de Grace, donated by his daughter Torinda Lutz.

Danny Poet – Bird photo note cards, Queenstown, MD; *A Caroline Bird Club Member*

REI Columbia – REI xr 10x50 Waterproof Binoculars. Retail Value \$199.95

River Hill Garden Center of Clarksville – a \$50 gift certificate, Clarksville, MD

Donna Tolbert-Anderson – Bird photo note cards, Easton, MD; *A Talbot Bird Club Member*

Marsha Webb – two quilted field guide holders, Havre de Grace, MD; *A Harford Bird Club Member*

Whitetail Ski Resort – 2 Learn to Ski or Snowboard Packages. Retail Value \$178, Mercersburg, PA 17236

Wild Bird Center of Timonium – Suet Ball Feeder & Suet Balls. Retail Value \$25, Timonium, MD

Wild Birds Unlimited – Red-roofed wooden bird feeder w/5 lbs. of seed. Retail Value \$55, Timonium, MD

Karin Wuertz-Schaefer – has made a 9 panel, 50" x 50" quilt with birds embroidered on the panels. Mt Airy, MD; *A Frederick Bird Club Member*

MOS Pin Contest

2013 Winner and Call for 2014 entries

By Ellen Lawler

Congratulations to Diane Ford! Diane's lively depiction of a Virginia Rail navigating among cattails won the 27th annual MOS pin contest (see figure on page 27). MOS members who attended the 2013 Conference in Edgewood this past May each received one of these attractive pins. Diane, a member of the Montgomery Bird Club, also won the 2009 pin contest with a Least Bittern design.

It's already time to start working on entries for the 2014 contest! What species will grace the 2014 pin and represent the conference at Solomons next May? Perhaps a denizen of Southern Maryland deciduous forests such as a Summer Tanager or Kentucky Warbler, a brilliant Blue Grosbeak common in coastal plain meadows, or a Prothonotary Warbler from Battle Creek Cypress Swamp?

The deadline for the receipt of entries is January 17, 2014. The rules are simple: the bird must be appropriate for the conference site (Calvert County); the design must include the phrases "MOS" and "2014"; the artist must be an MOS member and the entries must be in hard copy.

Put your name, address, e-mail address, phone number and chapter affiliation on the back of each entry. Send entries to Ellen Lawler, 412 Monticello Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801.

To see the complete rules and tips about designing entries for the contest visit the MOS web site (annual conference pages) or contact Ellen at 410-546-9056 or emlawler@salisbury.edu. E-mail Ellen if you'd like to have your name added to the artist's list to receive reminders of the contest deadline.



ALLEGANY/GARRETT COUNTY

Chapter members *Bill Devlin*, *Debbie Wiles*, and *Mary Huebner*, and new member *Jolene Scofield* traveled to Ecuador (Quito), and then the Galapagos Islands, and Cotapaxi National Park. Highlights were Blue-Footed Booby, Nasca Booby, Galapagos Penguin, and a few species of Darwin's Finches.

Our travel group, EF Tours, included a group from Maryland (Allegheny College of MD) and a group from Missouri Southern State University, 19 in all. Although, it was not officially a birding trip, our birders turned it into one. We visited four of the Galapagos Islands (Santa Cruz, Baltra, Floreana, and Isabella). We were able to walk among the Galapagos tortoises, lava lizards, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and marine and land iguanas. On the mainland, we took a day trip to the Equator, where we saw the Sparkling Violetear, Tropical Mockingbird, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Eared Dove. Also, we drove high into the Andes to Cotapaxi Volcano where we saw Carunculated Caracara, Stout-billed Cincloides, Grass Wren, and Tawny Antpitta and a few shorebirds, including Andean Coot, Andean Gull, and Andean Teal.

A special treat on our way out to the islands, was a large school of bottle-nosed dolphin that came very close to our boat leaping out of the water, three and four at a time. Quite a sight! It is a very special place, with very warm memories. *Bill Devlin*

CARROLL COUNTY

Don and Mary Jewell, members of the Carroll County Bird Club, spent three weeks in England in late April and May. During that time, they hiked Hadrian's Wall Path. In addition to passing through some amazing landscapes and well-preserved archaeological sites, the trail crossed some great birding habitat. The Jewells were able to add 60 species to their life lists. Those that stand out in particular were the Dipper foraging among the rocks in the River Irthing and some Black-tailed Godwits poking about the mud at Campfield Marsh. The cries of the curlews in the hills were also never to be forgotten.

After completing the trail, Don and Mary spent a couple extra days at St. Bees. They hiked up to see the bird cliffs at St. Bees Head, where Common and Black Guillemots were nesting as well as a few puffins. A Corn Bunting called from fields nearby and a Gray Partridge took flight at one point as they walked back to town.

Their host at the bed and breakfast in St. Bees saved the best for last. When he found out they were birders, he invited them to sit with him out in the barnyard, (it was a working farm),

to watch his two resident barn owls fly about at dusk. *Don Jewell*

HARFORD COUNTY

Fourteen members and friends of the Harford Bird Club returned on July 6 from a ten day birding expedition in Belize. After landing in Belize City, they traveled by boat to the Lamanai Outpost Lodge in the Orange Walk District. During three days there, in addition to birding, they visited Mayan ruins and the decaying remains of a British sugar mill. Then the group rode by van to Chan Chich Lodge, an eco-tourist resort built on the 130,000 acre estate of Barry Bowen near Gallon Jug. The Lodge is located in the midst of a large, undeveloped Mayan site. Birding walks were led by native guide, Hilberto Vasquez, who has worked at the lodge since its opening in 1988. Other activities included horseback riding and a visit to the 3000 acre Gallon Jug Estate Farm which supplies the Lodge. Amenities included unlimited free Belikan beer, one of several products of Bowen enterprises. After four days at Chan Chich, they traveled by air to Ambergris Caye for birding in the coastal area while staying at Victoria House in San Pedro. In addition to birding along the beaches and roads, the group traveled by boat to the mangrove area of the coast and to the coral reef for some snorkeling. Over 180 bird species were observed on this trip. A few spectacular sightings included an Ornate Hawk Eagle, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Pinnated Bittern, King Vulture and Black and White Owl. Non-avian species sighted included howler and spider monkeys, brocket deer, fishing bats and an extraordinary nighttime view of an ocelot capturing an opossum.

Expedition members were *Elaine Beery*, *Margie Heagy*, *Bob and Susan Hood*, *Dennis and Jean Kirkwood*, *Marcia Mundrick*, *Bob and Allie Murphy*, *Jane Scocca*, *Joe and Melody Stevens* and *George and Donna Yorkston*. *Jane Scocca*

My Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) birding trip to Spain April 25 to May 10 was all that I expected and more. The small group of eight plus Spanish guide Santiago Villa and VENT guide Brian Gibbons was a congenial and fun bunch. We experienced a variety of habitats, sampled wonderful Spanish food, wine, and culture, and enjoyed spectacular birds as we traversed the country for over 2000 miles. From Seville we headed to the marshes and wetlands of Doñana National Park where birds were abundant including Greater Flamingo, Garganey, and White-headed Duck. A trip to the coast netted Collared Pratincole and Audouin's Gull.

Heading northward we entered the Extremadura or wild lands. The terrain, marked by sierras (low mountains) and Dehesas (savanna-like habitats of cork and holm oaks), supports the largest community of raptors in Europe. The area includes Monfragüe National Park. Extremadura produced sixteen raptor species including: Spanish, Bonelli's, Short-toed, and Booted Eagle, Eurasian Griffon, Egyptian, and Cinereous Vulture. Near the town of Trujillo, Pizarro's birthplace, was a large undeveloped flat area, Llanos de Cáceres. This was home to Great and Little Bustards, Roller, Bee-eater, and many others.

Continuing in a northeast direction, we crossed into the Gredos Mountains beautifully clothed in fresh snow. The highlight of this area was a short but dramatic hike in the mountains up an

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old Roman road to the breeding grounds of the Bluethroat.

Next we spent a night at the Parador de Cervera surrounded by the mountains of Fuentes Carrionas Natural Park. Eurasian Bullfinch was the bird of the area.

Next stop was the Picos de Europa another snow-capped mountain range, where we hiked through alpine scenery for White-winged Snow Finch and Yellow and Red-billed Chough.

Following an eastward path we entered the Hecho Valley in the Pyenees. What a thrill to see the Lammergeier at eye-level. I could actually see why it used to be called Bearded Vulture! Another thrill was watching Wallcreepers fly and feed along the rock face.

Heading southwest we traveled to Madrid by way of the Belchite Steppes where we heard and had great views of the rare Dupont's Lark. We saw 208 species. *Jean Wheeler*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Read about club member *Emily Wilberg's* wonderful experience at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. See page 13.

Mike Bowen spent the best (and the hottest and most humid) part of February in the West African country of Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast when it was a British colony. He went with the U.K.-based bird tour group known as BirdQuest, which has a well deserved reputation for never sparing any effort to see the next bird species. By the end of three weeks, Mike had recorded 424 species, 219 of them "lifers." Top birds for the trip were Yellow-headed Picathartes, one of Africa's rarest birds, and Egyptian Plover, which Mike had been wanting to see for many years. Twenty-one species of Sunbird weren't too bad, either, or the family of Nkulengu Rails, perched high in a tree well after dark – a species that is infrequently seen by visiting birders. Rails in a tree? The group traveled more than 4000 km to every part of Ghana and grew to love the somewhat spicy food, the fresh mangoes, pineapples, and bananas, the ice-cold beer at our ports of call, and most especially the people, always friendly and welcoming whatever their economic status or religious persuasion. Mike's complete saga will be recorded in a two-part series of articles in the Montgomery Bird Club's newsletter, The Chat.

Don Messersmith is currently on a cross-country birding trip, which is also a chance to visit family and friends. He left May 9 and returns in mid-September. Don writes: "I am writing this on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington in July, so I have crossed the continent on a northern route and am now heading south toward San Diego which is my half way point before turning back toward the East on a southern and central U. S. route. I have no set itinerary or time-table. One goal is to try to see some birds I have never seen and to reacquaint myself with those I have seldom seen. I am mostly traveling alone since my wife, Sherry, died unexpectedly on Thanksgiving Day. One of my daughters, Betsy, joined me for a week in eastern North Dakota and Bill Murphy, a great birder and friend, joined me in western Montana including Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks. Another daughter, Heidi, will join me in California. At this writing I have been to 12 states and four Canadian Provinces. I have seen almost 300

species of birds and three that are new for me – Baird's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur and Cassin's Vireo. Included among these are America's largest bird, the Trumpeter Swan, and its smallest, the Calliope Hummingbird (on its nest feeding young.) I expect to visit about 36 states before returning home and perhaps see and photograph another hundred birds. I should add I have also seen almost 20 different mammals and myriads of prairie wild flowers."

In March, *Barry Cooper* and *Gail Mackiernan*, along with two friends from England, spent 25 days in Ethiopia. They write: "With guide-driver, Abiy Dagne, Ethiopia Quadrants Tours, we traveled 4100 kilometers through much of this ancient and fascinating country. In all, we saw over 550 species of birds and many interesting mammals such as the critically endangered Ethiopian Wolf, Besra Oryx and Mountain Nyala. Bird highlights included all the Ethiopian endemics such as enigmatic Stresemann's Bush-crows, rare Sidamo Larks, brilliant Prince Ruspoli's Turacos, jazzy Spot-breasted Lapwings and intimidating Thick-billed Ravens. Other highlights were a party of the rare African Swallow-tailed Kite in Awash National Park, a usually skulking Black Bush-robin giving us a splendid show at Bilen Lodge, large numbers of the huge Abyssinian Ground-hornbill, and the always entertaining Vulturine Guineaowl. Ethiopia was never colonized and retains much of its unique culture. About 70% of the people are very devout Coptic Christians, and ancient churches and monasteries draw tourists from all over the world. The dramatic landscape, with steep gorges and canyons, red-soil deserts and high alpine forests, and heath land is also compelling. We spent most of our time in predominantly Muslim and tribal areas to the east and south, near the Somalia and Kenyan borders. Here pastoralist tribesmen live lives not much different from the time of the pharaohs. We were there during the end of the dry season, and the daily challenge of finding water for humans and animals was obvious – we were often stopped by children asking only for a plastic water bottle, a valuable item here. People have little but fortunately, they seem to accept and even admire their wildlife. One of our best memories was showing a Sulfur-breasted Bushshrike to a group of beautifully dressed young Somali women who gasped in admiration at the bird through the telescope, then went off to fill their heavy jerry cans at the local waterhole. We also had some adventures. We were stopped by a group of well-armed Afar tribesmen at a roadblock set up to halt trucks in order to "extract" a toll. After some argument they waved us through unscathed but it was a bit more excitement than we needed in the middle of nowhere. Most of the roads were okay and getting better, thanks to the Chinese, who are in Ethiopia building roads and other infrastructure. (There was no sign of any USA activity anywhere.) We had been warned about accommodations but new hotels in some previously "iffy" areas were welcome and we also stayed at several excellent lodges. The quality of food varied widely. If you are not "into" the native enjera cuisine, in most places the only other option was spaghetti, a relict of the Italian occupation during WW II. However most of the better hotels also offered excellent fresh fish from the many Rift Valley Lakes. Birding is excellent in Ethiopia, as in many African counties, and can certainly be recommended."

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New club member *Ghazali Raheem* from Virginia writes of his recent trip to Arizona:

"My brother, his wife, and I had been planning a trip to Southwest Arizona in Spring for quite a long time. We picked Tucson as our base and through the membership of the MBC had received recommendations to contact Melody Khel. With magical place names like Santa Catalina Mountains, Bear Canyon Overlook Picnic Area, Cypress Picnic Area, General Hitchcock Campground, Inspiration Rock Picnic Area, Middle Bear Picnic Area, Rose Canyon Group Picnic Area, Sabino Canyon Group Picnic Area, Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, Spencer Canyon Campground, Molino Basin Campground we spent a fruitful birding day going from the Sonoran Desert to the upper reaches of Mt. Lemmon at about 11,000 feet elevation. We saw 55 species on that one magical day. Melody had packed a superb picnic lunch which we ate at the Gordon Hirabayashi Campground. On the return drive to Tucson that evening, our heads were filled with wonderful sounds of birds and a challenging list of new birds - exhausted yet happy. The birds we saw were too numerous to list here but included all the local specialties such as Harris's Hawk, Gambel's Quail, Broad-billed and Anna's Hummingbird, the five flycatchers (Cordilleran, Buff-breasted, Dusky-capped, Ash-throated and Brown-crested), Bridled Titmouse, Pygmy Nuthatch, Verdin, Mexican Jay, Olive Warbler, a full suite of warblers (Lucy's, Grace's, Wilson's, Red-faced and Black-throated Gray), Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-eyed Junco, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting and Scott's Oriole. Melody's website is <http://www.melodysbirding.com/> and on her website it appropriately says: 'So Many Birds, So Little Time'." *Chris Wright*

Southern Maryland

In early July, *George Jett* and *Gwen Brewer* journeyed to the northern pantanal and cerrado region of Brazil for two weeks with a small group of like-minded nature geeks on a tour organized by Fiona Reid. Between the early morning walks, boat rides, and truck rides along the Transpantaneira highway (both day and night), over 240 species of birds, 29 mammals, and an as-yet undetermined number of amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, dragonflies, and plants were seen. George photographed about 150 species of birds, as well as jaguars, giant anteaters, giant river otters, Brazilian tapirs, crab-eating foxes, 3 species of deer, 3 species of monkeys, and several bats. Highlights on the bird front included a mix of pantanal and cerrado specialties: Hyacinth Macaw, Red-shouldered Macaw, Red-legged Seriema, Bare-faced Curassow, Tataupa Tinamou, Jabiru, Scissor-tailed Nighthawk, Matto Grosso Antbird, Red-billed Scythebill, Planalto Slaty Antshrike, Helmeted Manakin, Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Black-faced Tanager, and hundreds of Snail Kites coming to roost. One of the many memorable scenes was a group of 10 Red-and-green Macaws perched in a tree next to a beautiful waterfall. One of the many memorable moments was when the back wheel of the truck went through on one of the many wooden bridges that we crossed! Images from the trip will be appearing on George's website, www.georgejett.net *Gwen Brewer*

TALBOT COUNTY

Joanne and *Hal Laskowski* have been conducting Piping Plover surveys for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge all spring on Metompkin Island, a barrier beach island in Virginia. The island is 6 miles long and they do the northern 3 miles. Due to Hurricane Sandy, the entire northern portion of the island has been washed over creating excellent habitat for Piping Plovers. Currently they have 34 adult pairs (68 birds) and 33 chicks of which 15 are considered fledglings/flying (25 to greater than 28 days old). Some pairs still have eggs, so they expect to have more chicks shortly. Also, taking advantage of the excellent habitat are Least and Common Terns, Black Skimmers, Willets, American Oystercatchers and Wilson's Plovers. Of the 3 pairs of Wilson's plovers only one pair has been successful and fledged 2 chicks. Right now, the shorebirds are starting to migrate through with early Black Bellied Plovers, Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones. "For our first volunteer experience after retirement, it just doesn't get any better than this"! *Joanne Laskowski*

Harry & Liz Armistead were in Barbados April 13-21 along with daughter Mary, son-in law Michael & little grandson David (21 months). Barbados is 100 miles east of any other Caribbean islands, a little farther from Venezuela. Thus its avifauna is quite depauperate. We saw only 44 species. The mongoose and green vervet (monkey) swarm over the island. Around the modest setting of our lodging, Bougainvillea Beach Resort, we saw Carib Grackle, Barbados Bullfinch (the only island endemic), Zenaida Dove, Bananaquit, Scaly-naped Pigeon, Green-throated Carib, Shiny Cowbird, Common Ground Dove, and Gray Kingbird. We heard Johnstone's Whistling Frogs. Ground doves foraged underneath our beach recliner.

The best place was Graeme Hall Nature Center, however most of it is closed and all of it is threatened, due to irreconcilable disputes between the owner and the government. Red and White Mangroves surround an attractive, brackish pond. Little Egrets nest here, the only place in the Western Hemisphere. On April 17, I counted 151 Common Gallinules, a record high for Barbados.

Barbadian ornithologist Eddie Massiah took me on a whirlwind tour of the impoundments owned by hunting clubs, where we saw a Common Greenshank. Due to its eastern location and the prevailing easterlies Barbados has records of over 30 Eurasian species, such as Eurasian Spoonbill, Collared Pratincole, Alpine Swift. Fall hunting of shorebirds here, and elsewhere in the Lesser Antilles, is a strong tradition. On Barbados, thousands of shorebirds like Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red Knot, and Stilt Sandpiper have been shot. On this tour we saw live shorebird decoys of 8 species at Congo Road. Some 52 shorebird species have been seen here, including the famous 1963 Eskimo Curlew, also shot. Eddie Massiah is co-author of *Birds of Barbados* by Paul Buckley et al. (B.O.U./B.O.C., 2009, 295p.) as well as a regional editor for *North American Birds*. Eddie's family has been on the island since the 1600s. My 4,000± word report is available. If interested request at: harryarmistead@hotmail.com

On another subject, Harry was requested to write: "Birding: gateway to enjoying nature," an annotated list of 28 (mostly book) titles recommended for (mostly) public libraries. It

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is due to appear in Library Journal this fall. *Harry Armistead.*

TRI-COUNTY

Larry & Jean Fry visited Magee Marsh as part of a Road Scholar program on Friday, May 10th. Since this was still part of "The Biggest Week in American Birding," it was quite crowded. They returned again on their own on May 14th and 15th. It was less crowded on the 14th, but on the 15th a front from the southwest had moved in, and so had the birders. They saw a total of 76 species, including Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, and the following warblers: Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-White, Prothonotary, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, numerous American Redstarts, a female Kirtland's, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Blackburnian, a virtual plethora of Yellows, Chestnut-sided, lots of Black-throated Blues, Palm, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green. Also had good looks at two American Woodcocks, and found Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo, Least Flycatcher, Trumpeter Swans, and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, practically at their feet near the beach. They call it "combat birding," but actually everyone was very courteous and helpful. They have never seen so much expensive camera equipment in one place! They stayed at Maumee Bay Lodge, which is operated by Ohio State Park system and is a little closer to Magee Marsh than Port Clinton. On their last day there they realized that their neighbors in the adjacent room were Brent and Mary Byers from Maryland. Small world!

Tri-County member *Mike Walsh* just returned from a 23 day trip birding in Kenya. Sponsored by Tropical Birding, the trip covered Mt. Kenya, the Masai Mara, Tsavo, and the coastal forest. In addition to seeing over 570 bird species, (who's counting after a while) they saw most of the mammals that make East Africa such a popular eco-adventure.

Point Counts in Maryland

Over 30 years ago (1979-1983), *Chan Robbins* and colleagues studied bird populations and measured habitat variables within 271 forests in Maryland. During the last 2 summers, member *Dr. Ron Gutberlet*, professor at Salisbury University, his graduate student Marshall Boyd, undergrads Joey Gutkoska and Brady Travis, and a couple of very generous volunteers from the club (*Mike Burchett* and *Mario Ramirez*), have been revisiting each of the 120 points originally sampled by the Robbins team in the lower Eastern Shore forests. By visiting the same points and using the same methods sampled by the Robbins team, Gutberlet's team is studying the relationship between vegetation changes and forest bird populations during this 30 year period. The team consists of tough, goodnatured students, volunteers and, leader, who have met at 4am five days a week to don hip waders and head nets, and wield machetes to reach some of these very out of the way places. It would not be most people's idea of the lazy days of summer. It will take one more season to complete the lower shore sampling. The hope is to extend the effort to other parts of the state. I'm sure volunteers will sign up early!

Carol Broderick

MOS and Trap-Neuter-Release

By Kurt Schwarz

MOS (with multiple contributors) wrote the following letter to the producers of The Animal House and WAMU-FM protesting their promotion of trap-neuter-release as good public policy. MOS pointed out recent scientific evidence that TNR benefits neither cats, nor wildlife, nor public health and is not good public policy. We requested that those opposing TNR also be given a voice.

Dear Animal House Producers and WAMU FM 88.5:

Many of the members of the Maryland Ornithological Society listen to Animal House regularly and enjoy the program. However, in the recent segment "Decoding Litter Box Behavior" broadcast by WAMU on June 28, 2013 in Washington, D.C., the hosts of the program spoke in favor of Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) practices for managing feral cats on public and private land. They brought on the President of Alley Cat Allies, Ms. Becky Robinson, who described the program and praised it as a responsible public policy solution for managing feral cats¹

The Maryland Ornithological Society takes issue with this point of view, and with the producers of this program, and WAMU-FM, for promoting this practice as sound public policy and responsible wildlife conservation management, for we believe it is none of the above. We call on you to provide ample time on this program for a responsible discussion of the opposing view.

By way of background on why we take an opposite view, there is substantial scientific evidence that Trap-Neuter-Release programs have been shown to have deleterious effects on native wildlife. A peer-reviewed scientific study published in January 2013 by the Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service put the number of birds killed annually in the United States by free-ranging cats at between 1.4 and 3.7 billion. The toll on small mammals killed, from 6.9 to 20.7 billion annually, is even greater. The authors conclude that domestic cats may constitute the single greatest source of anthropogenic mortality for birds and mammals in the U.S.²

Numerous other studies by reputable scientific organizations indicate similar findings. A January 2011 Smithsonian study documented that 47% of all Gray Catbirds killed by predators were killed by cats. Because of this predation, the number of young birds fledged was not sufficient to maintain the population at healthy levels, causing a significant decline in the species.³ A 2011 study in the United Kingdom demonstrated that the mere presence of a cat can reduce the amount of food parent birds deliver to their chicks, and greatly increases the nest's vulnerability to predation by third parties, such as crows.⁴

Specifically, it is our view that this practice is not good public policy, as re-releasing a feral cat into the wild can be detrimental to the health of cats themselves, where they would be subject to the weather, predators, automobiles, parasites, and disease. Although we recognize that these efforts are conducted with the best of

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intentions by volunteers who provide food for feral cat colonies, such food resources can prove to be unreliable. Instead we advocate removal of these cats from the natural environment, and evaluation by reputable humane organizations for socialization and eventual rehoming.

There are any number of other reasons why TNR practices are irresponsible public policy and inappropriate wildlife management. For example, the willful abandonment of a domestic animal is a violation of Maryland state law,⁵ and of other local governmental jurisdictions. Furthermore, TNR does not reduce feral cat populations, as shown in a 2009 study published in the journal *Conservation Biology*.⁶ It is clearly in the best interest of wildlife and cats for cats to remain indoors, where they are kept in a relatively parasite/pathogen free environment and reduce the probability for unwanted orphaned offspring and harm to wildlife populations already at risk.

Such colonies also present a public health threat. While cats placed in such colonies are generally vaccinated against rabies, other feral cats attracted to the colony are not. Two cases of rabid stray cats were reported in Baltimore on June 28.⁷ Aside from the rabies threat, an even greater public health issue from feral cats is Toxoplasmosis. *Toxoplasma gondii* is a microscopic parasite that is disseminated by cats and their feces. The parasite is transmissible to humans, and the CDC in 2003 reported a link between *Toxoplasma gondii* infection and psychotic symptoms similar to schizophrenia.⁸ The CDC also considers Toxoplasmosis a leading cause of death from food-borne illness and in newly infected pregnant mothers it can present a serious threat to the child.⁹ Toxoplasmosis from cat feces discharged to surface waters has also been implicated in the steep decline of Sea Otter populations in California.¹⁰

From a perspective of wildlife biology, the domestic cat is a non-native mammal, which occurs in a density far greater than any equivalent native predator. TNR colonies artificially and irresponsibly concentrate large numbers of cats in a small geographic area with devastating effects on local birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Even when individuals or colonies are fed, cats continue to hunt. It is their instinct. We don't bemoan this; it is the way of nature—predators eat prey. However, we feel it is our collective societal responsibility to conserve all our native wildlife in the most responsible manner, and we frankly believe it is also the responsibility of your program to present responsible views from both sides of this admittedly emotional and sometimes passionate debate.

We call on the Animal House and WAMU to give equal time to responsible spokespersons to present the opposite public policy view and the science-based reasoning behind these views in the interests of representing differing positions with equity and balance. We would be happy to suggest one or more spokespersons who could join your hosts in this discussion, and we look forward to your favorable reply for when this program will air.

Sincerely, Kurt R. Schwarz
Conservation Chair, Maryland Ornithological Society

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2 Loss, Scott R., Tom Will, Peter P. Marra, "The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States," *Nature Communications* 4, Published 29 January 2013. http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/pdf/Loss_et_al_2013.pdf

3 Balogh, Anne L., Thomas B. Ryder, Peter P. Marra, "Population demography of Gray Catbirds in the suburban matrix: sources, sinks and domestic cats," *Journal of Ornithology*, 152(3) : 717-726., 2011 <http://preview.tinyurl.com/mxc5sdx>

4 Bonnington, Colin, Kevin J. Gaston, Karl L. Evans, "Fearing the feline: domestic cats reduce avian fecundity through trait-mediated indirect effects that increase nest predation by other species," *Journal of Applied Ecology*, Volume 50, issue 1, pages 15-24. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jpe.2013.50.issue-1/issuetoc>

5 West's Annotated Code of Maryland. Criminal Law. Title 10. <http://tinyurl.com/7l8549w>

6 Longcore, Travis, Catherine Rich, and Lauren M. Sullivan, "Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Neuter-Release," *Conservation Biology*, Volume 23, No. 4, 2009 http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/pdf/Management_claims_feral_cats.pdf

7 WJZ, CBS-Baltimore, June 28, 2013: <http://news.yahoo.com/video/2-cats-fox-test-positive-033000475.html>

8 Torrey, E. Fuller and Robert H. Yolken, "Toxoplasma gondii and Schizophrenia, Emerging Infectious Diseases," CDC, 2003, <http://tinyurl.com/6u8edkr>

9 "Parasites- Toxoplasmosis," Centers for Disease Control, <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/>

10 Conrad, P.A. et al, "Transmission of Toxoplasma: Clues from the study of sea otters as sentinels of Toxoplasma gondii flow into the marine environment," *International Journal of Parasitology*, volume 35, pages 1155-1168, 2005. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0020751905002444>

Jug Bay Conference

By Colin Rees, Anne Arundel Bird Club

With the support of the MOS, the AABC held a one day workshop at the Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary on the 20th of April. Some thirty people participated, drawn from national and local bird/wildlife conservation NGOs, the government of Maryland, MOS, and some of its chapters.

The morning session was opened by myself and Maureen Harvey, President of the MOS, and welcomed by Lindsay Hollister of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. There followed presentations by a panel of experts (Audubon Maryland/DC, American Bird Conservancy, Delmarva Ornithological Society, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife and Heritage Service, DNR, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Paul Baicich), MOS Board members and some of its Chapters. Major themes emerging in the subsequent discussion clustered

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around:

- An urgent need to protect the integrity of natural habitats and ecosystems supporting the resource base and to address the impacts of such pressing issues as wind farms, fracking, night lighting (Lights-Out) and cat predation;
- Priority actions to be taken based upon: biological significance (rare/endangered species, old-growth forests and grasslands); level of threat (e.g., climate change, especially salt marshes, agricultural practices and pollution); life cycle considerations (particularly for migrants) and conserving functioning ecosystems; and, feasible opportunities for adoption at the local and state levels;
- Input into the revision of the Maryland Wildlife Diversity Conservation Plan (due in September, 2015);
- Opportunity for a multi-partner Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative and allied establishment of a Maryland Bird Observatory (knowledge center, etc.) following the Wisconsin/Ohio models;
- Timeliness of partnering to overcome financial constraints, address the urgency for protection and exploit the benefits of collective impact -- grant opportunities (mobilizing resources), raising finance (Birdathons), purchase of land to

create green areas with connectivity, etc.;

- Advocacy for land protection /engaging politicians at state and local levels to change policy, behavior/mindsets and management practices;
- Youth constituency and education and outreach: educating teachers and connecting students with nature, turning birders into conservationists, (e.g., Ebird with more of a conservation focus), Citizen Science and use of media in publicizing achievements; build nature centers;
- Habitat improvement: native gardens/ creating wildlife habitat in domestic settings ("Wild Acres"), tree planting; and,
- Monitoring and use of databases to inform decision-making; feed bird survey findings into appropriate databases.

For the afternoon, three working groups were formed to explore a set of actions for adoption: I. Youth and Education; II. Conservation on-the-ground; and, III. Advocacy and a State-wide Bird Conservation Strategy. Chairs for each of the working groups reported their recommendations and conclusions to plenary for consideration by the conservation organizations, the MOS and its Chapters. An Action Matrix based on the major findings of the three working groups is below. The chairs of each of the working groups will form virtual groups to maintain momentum for a follow up meeting in October of 2013.

Actions to Mainstream the Conservation of Bird Populations and their Habitats in Maryland				
The following are recommendations from Workshop on How the Birding Community in Maryland Can Support Habitat Conservation, held at Jug Bay Wetland Center, 20 April 2013:				
Topic/Action Items	Action by MOS	Action by Chapters	Partnerships with DNR/NGOs	Actions pending/taken
Youth and Education 1. Inspire families 2. Provide Mentoring 3. Provide Beginner Activities 4. Provide Continuity 5. Establish Conservation Calendar	1-4. MOS to convene a meeting with partners to explore ways to enhance its outreach program and work with partners. 5. Develop a calendar of events in favor of engaging youth; outreach.	1-4. Chapters to establish/build upon activities such as Eden Mill Formans Branch Bird Observatory and the Harford, Montgomery, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel chapters to broaden youth/outreach programs. 5. Work with local groups to identify/support local events.		1. Proposed Flying Wild Workshop at Jug Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (within the next few months). 2. Engage Youth MOS leaders 3. Publicize banding stations willing to educate. 4. Chapters to publish calendar of events.
Conservation On-The-Ground 1".Lights Out" program. 2. Bird monitoring and inventorying 3. Habitat stewardship 4. Conservation programming	2. MOS to meet with DNR staff to discuss how MOS may provide assistance to bird monitoring program; also discuss with conservation NGOs. 4. Future MOS Annual Conferences to include a presentation on bird habitat conservation.	1. Baltimore Chapter to take lead in widening campaign through presentations to relevant chapters (Montgomery and Tri-State). 2. Chapters to be guided by outcome of discussions with DNR. 3. AABC and Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary to organize invasive species control efforts. Other Chapters to adopt similar practices. 4. Undertake conservation-related field trips and evening programs; each Chapter to establish a Conservation Group.	2. MOS Chapters/NGOs to work with DNR to assist in bird monitoring/inventory. 3. AABC and Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary to organize invasive species control efforts.	2. Share data with local planning and zoning departments; educate them on declining species based on BBS data. 3. Develop MOS/DNR pamphlet on backyard habitat enhancement with a focus on nest success (e.g. cats indoors, removal of garbage to discourage raccoons, adding water sources, etc.).

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Actions to Mainstream the Conservation of Bird Populations and their Habitats in Maryland (Cont.)				
The following are recommendations from Workshop on How the Birding Community in Maryland Can Support Habitat Conservation, held at Jug Bay Wetland Center, 20 April 2013:				
Topic/Action Items	Action by MOS	Action by Chapters	Partnerships with DNR/NGOs	Actions pending/taken
Advocacy and MD Bird Conservation Strategy 1. Funding support 2. Local action 3. Organize/support local bird conservation communities 4a. MD Bird Conservation Initiative. 4b. MD Bird Observatory 5. Update MDs Wildlife Action Plan.	2. MOS Conservation Committee to deepen its work in advocacy concerning land use issues; to institute/coordinate an intelligence gathering operation. 3. MOS to use the Annual Conference and other suitable events to support work of Chapters in helping mainstream bird conservation.	2. Chapters to enhance/build capacity for advocacy in developmental/land use issues 3. Chapters to identify how they could support/partner with conservation NGOs for bird conservation	1. MOS/Chapters/NGOs to seek funding from the State/Federal levels to support bird conservation at state, national and international levels; MOS/Chapters et al to participate in lobby training and join advocacy day (organized by ABC); Work towards funding of new initiatives with DNR. 2. All parties to expand their role in supporting local action/advocacy. 4a. Draft MD Bird Conservation Plan circulated for comment; establish a group to prepare the Plan in parallel with partners. 4b. Establish a Working Group to explore options for establishing a MD Bird Observatory; consider potential funding source such as the Neotropical Bird Conservation Fund. 5. Establish a Working Group of all parties help with the revision of the Action Plan.	2. Lobby training completed on 22 May 2013 by ABC. 2. Meetings held with staffs of Sen Cardin, Cong. Hoyer and Van Hollen; follow up agreed. 2/3. MOS/Chapters/NGOs to develop proposals around of matching funds to support local or neotropical efforts in favor of conserving bird/wildlife populations. 4a. Draft MD Bird Conservation Plan circulated for comment. 4b. Develop a strategic plan for the creation of a MD Bird Observatory

Meetings on Capitol Hill

By Colin Rees

The letter cited below was sent to the staff of Senator Cardin and Congressmen Van Hollen and Hoyer following meetings kindly arranged by Steve Holmer, Senior Policy Advisor, American Bird Conservancy. Barbara Johnson and I were participants along with Steve as representatives of the Maryland Bird Conservation Alliance.

In all instances, the staff members encouraged the AABC and other chapters and the MOS to deepen our efforts and urged us to

keep them informed of progress. They were especially interested in the establishment of a bird observatory. They were invited to attend the scheduled October workshop following that held at Jug Bay last April.

Dear Senator/Congressman...,

It was very good of you to share your valuable time with us yesterday in listening to our ideas about protecting Maryland's bird

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populations and their habitats. We also greatly appreciate your interest and valuable suggestions and wish to thank the Senator / Congressman for his support and leadership in protecting birds and other wildlife.

As we intimated, we have a rare opportunity to bring the bird conservation community together to take pragmatic steps to help arrest the decline of birds and other wildlife. Last April's Jug Bay Workshop on How the Birding Community in Maryland Can Support Habitat Conservation identified priority actions to be taken by responsible parties, including the preparation and implementation of a Bird Conservation Initiative and establishment of a bird observatory in Maryland. The latter is an especially attractive proposition given its potential to conduct research on native and migrants birds, educate youth and the general public about the natural environment, develop wildlife tourism and become a center of excellence for conservation. We will deepen commitment to the priority actions at a follow up meeting at Jug Bay scheduled for October of this year. Again, you are most cordially invited to attend.

I am attaching a report on the Workshop, the Action Plan and a draft outline of a proposal to establish a bird observatory in Maryland. Please do not hesitate to request additional information.

With its varied terrain, great biological diversity and an integral part of the Atlantic Flyway, Maryland has the opportunity to be a leader in conservation. As we discovered in the Workshop, there are many dedicated and informed people in the state ready to embrace what is this century's greatest threat. Many of the tools for action are in place, but we must bring this all together in a coherent whole. That is the challenge; that is the test.

*Sincerely,
Colin Rees*

My MOS Scholarship Week on Hog Island

What a wonderful week in Maine! Where do I start? I was fortunate to get a scholarship from Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) to attend a week long session called "Joy of Birding" on Hog Island, ME. Hog Island Audubon Camp is on an island off the coast of Maine. At one time the camp nearly closed but the Friends of Hog Island (FOHI-a non profit organization) committed to supply funds to supplement the income and also volunteers to staff the camp. Many of the volunteers come for two week stints, but there is a woman who came to camp and ended up buying a property close by and she rows over daily to run the gift shop, lead birding tours, etc.

That's what I want to do when I grow up. There are limited amenities, but Hog Island Camp has the important stuff like hot showers and fantastic food. Be prepared for the weather, it is cool and often rainy. Life on an island makes you very aware of being

a good steward of resources- everything must be brought from the mainland, including electricity and water. This is a good lesson for life- conservation.

It was so comfortable being around other people like me. People who like birds. People who stop in the middle of a conversation to look up in the tree and try to spot the bird that is singing. All my life I have been a little bit of a weirdo but here is a group just like me! And it was good to be able to wear what I want without concern that I was embarrassing the people I am with. Raingear? Check! Binoculars around neck? Check! That hat my husband hates? Check! Pants tucked into socks? Check! Let's go birding!

The instructors for the week were amazing- very knowledgeable and very informative. And funny! We laughed a lot. My favorite presentations included Hawks in Flight by Clay Sutton, Migration (and a bird banding demonstration) by Scott Weidensaul, and the History of Project Puffin by Stephen Kress. However, I think my favorite instructor of the week was Pat Sutton, a Naturalist from Cape May. She gave an excellent workshop on gardening for wildlife but what I liked most about her was her enthusiasm- she was equally excited over seeing a common bird as a less common one, and she showed such patience with us newer birders.

One of the field trips was a day long boat trip to Eastern Egg Rock. Eastern Egg Rock is one of seven islands off the coast of Maine that have sea bird colonies on it that are managed by Project Puffin. Puffins were all but extinct in Maine due to human interference and predation of gulls. In the 70s Stephen Kress started Project Puffin in an attempt to get Puffins to return to nest. This involved bringing Puffin chicks from Canada, installing them in burrows, feeding them, watching them fly away, and waiting four long years before any returned. And another three years before they were seen bringing fish to the burrow, which signaled that there was a chick to be fed! Now there are over 100 Puffin nests on Eastern Egg Rock. An excellent book about Project Puffin is "Project Puffin: How We Brought Puffins Back to Egg Rock." It is written for kids but has plenty of information and photos about this fascinating project. Sue Schubel, Outreach Educator for Project Puffin, spoke a bit about the volunteers that go over to EER to perform tasks such as counting nests and keeping track of what types and size of fish are being brought to the chicks. Last year many of the chicks died because the fish the parents were able to bring them were too big for the chicks to eat. That must have been very difficult to watch without stepping in. In my heart, I would love to spend two weeks over on EER. However, in my mind I know that I am unlikely to do so; I was cold in my bunk under three wool blankets and a roof. I thought of the volunteers on the island on the very rainy day we had; Sue told me that it was 'pancake day' for them.

Of the 115 species we saw that week some highlights stand out for me: the loon calling that woke me early one morning. The field of Bobolinks. The Roseate Terns and Razorbills seen on one of our boat trips. The baby Great Horned Owl sitting like a

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Hog Island continued from page 13

big fuzzy teddy bear in a tree. The resident osprey nest with the two chicks. And the 'best bird' of the week for me was going out to land on Ross Island, slipping and sliding over the rockweed, to be able to hold a Herring Gull chick.

In these times where kids spend the majority of their lives indoors looking at screens I realize how very important it is to get them outdoors and up close to our amazing natural world. I am fired up to pursue my certification as a Master Naturalist and to volunteer at a nature center so that I am able to do field trips for kids. Again, thank you to MOS for sponsoring me to be able to do this. It was a life changing event.

Emily Wilberg



MARYLAND FALL COUNT 2013

The annual Fall Seasonal Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the 2nd or 3rd weekend of September in the Maryland-DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of whether the count will be on Saturday or Sunday to local chapters and coordinators. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Every pair of eyes helps, and it is great fun.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. A new checklist compilation form (AOU Supplement order 53) is available on the MOS website, in the "Species Counts" section: <http://www.mdbirds.org/counts/fall/fallcounts.html>.

The list includes the species one would expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further

written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

Check the Yellowthroat Calendar where Andy Martin has listed the Fall Counts, dates, and compilers that were confirmed by his deadline (p.20-22). A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website link above. Anyone already organizing a count or interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county without a coordinator are encouraged to contact me.

Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county/Chapter coordinator is October 5, 2012. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.

If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, you can contact the state-wide Fall Count Coordinator directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites, field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count period, are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics directly to the state Fall Count Coordinator by October 15.

Please plan to join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat,
MOS Fall Count Coordinator
13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155
Home phone: 410-531-2417
E-mail: ChuckS20@verizon.net

Coming Soon: MOS 2014 Scholarship Program by Kate Tufts

MOS will offer a scholarship program open to Maryland teachers, nature center staff, park rangers, and youth leaders to attend a week-long, ecology and ornithology camp during the summer of 2014. Awards, each valued at about \$1,100, cover tuition, room and board for an intensive six days of field study and instruction in ornithology, conservation or natural history. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient.

In 2013, seven recipients attended workshops at the beautiful Hog Island Audubon camp in Maine. See Emily Wilberg's description of her experience at the camp (My MOS Scholarship Week on Hog Island) in this newsletter.

Although the 2014 workshop selections and dates have not yet been formulated, they are expected to be similar to 2013. To see this year's information, check the MOS web site at www.mdbirds.org. Updated information will be posted on the web site when available and announced in the next issue of the Yellowthroat. If you have any questions please contact Kate Tufts at mosscholarships@verizon.net.

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT, APRIL 30, 2013

Operating Fund

Income	
Birds of North America Online	\$275.00
Charitable Campaigns	\$3,129.53
Direct Donations	\$75.00
Miscellaneous	\$593.77
Membership Dues	\$23,767.50
RBC Operating Fund Dividends	\$4,721.52
Sales	\$327.75

Total Income	\$32,890.07
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Expenses	
Affiliations, Memberships & Training	\$300.00
Audit & Tax Preparation	\$10,550.00
BNA Subscriptions	\$275.00
Budget Committee	\$25.00
Bulk Storage	\$1,888.00
Chapter Reimbursement for Board Mtg	\$250.00
Conservation Committee	\$970.00
Equipment & Office Supplies	\$582.96
Liability Insurance	\$3,785.00
Maryland Yellowthroat	\$6,380.65
Membership Data Base Management	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$180.86
MOS Website	\$115.95
Postage & Copying	\$184.00
Records Committee	\$61.85
Sales Tax	\$94.68
Special Project Grants	\$4,012.05
Telephone	\$590.85
Treasurer Stipend	\$2,400.00

Total Expenses	\$33,146.85
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Special Funds	Income	Expenses
Atlas Fund	\$1,430.08	\$0
Education Fund	\$2,855.24	\$1,696.75
Research Fund	\$1,742.17	\$1,500.00
Sanctuary Fund	\$9,771.54 (1)	\$13,304.67
Scholarship Fund	\$8,300.25 (2)	\$7,253.37
Youth Fund	\$10,985.49	\$8,981.48

(1) includes Prior-Year Carry-Over approved by Executive Council

(2) includes Non-Designated Funds approved by Board of Directors

Conference Finances	Income	Expenses
Conference 2013	\$25,471.00	\$3,493.83
Conference 2014 -	500.00	

Royal Bank of Canada Investment Portfolio

Increase in Market Value	\$149,057.77
Income (additional Non-Designated Fund Dividends)	\$4,805.02
Expenses (Portfolio Management Fees)	17,945.55

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report
as of July 24, 2013

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The MD/DCRC has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in The Maryland Yellowthroat. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 149 through 152. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of Maryland Birdlife. New "state" species include Maryland pelagic (open water) records of Herald Petrel and White-tailed Tropicbird (indicated with an asterisk). These two accepted records raised the number of species on the Official List of the Birds of Maryland to 447.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

MD Records Accepted:

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* [MD/2012-205]

Grasonville, Queen Anne's County
15-Dec-2012 through 18-Mar-2013

Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2012-202]

Choptank River, Ferry Point, Talbot County
11-Dec-2012 through 30-Mar-2013

Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2012-206]

Elms Environmental Education Center, Dameron, Saint Mary's County
23-Dec-2012 through 19-Jan-2013

Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica* [MD/2012-203]

Fort Howard Park, Edgemere, Baltimore County
08-Dec-2012

Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica* [MD/2013-009]

Ocean City inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County
16-Feb-2013

***Herald Petrel**, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2012-075]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County
25-Aug-2012

***White-tailed Tropicbird**, *Phaethon lepturus* [MD/2013-017]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County
13-Jul-2011

White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi* [MD/2012-060]

South Point, Berlin, Worcester County
17-Jun-2012

White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi* [MD/2012-066]

Deal Island WMA, Dame's Quarter, Somerset County
11-Jul-2012

Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* [MD/2013-007]

Cordova, Talbot County
03-Feb-2013 through 04-Feb-2013

Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis* [MD/2012-013]

Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester County
04-Aug-2007

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*
[MD/2006-065]

Creagerstown, Frederick County
20-Jun-2006 through 29-Jul-2006

Records continued from page 15

- Eurasian Collared-Dove**, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2011-163]
Cedartown Road, Snow Hill, Worcester County
29-May-2011
- Eurasian Collared-Dove**, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2012-103]
Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County
09-Aug-2011
- Eurasian Collared-Dove**, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2012-053]
Leitersburg, Washington County
14-Jun-2012 through 30-Jul-2012
- White-winged Dove**, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2012-154]
Fort McHenry National Monument, Baltimore City, Baltimore County
09-Nov-2012
- White-winged Dove**, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2013-006]
Annmarie Gardens, Solomons, Calvert County
01-Feb-2013 through 02-Feb-2013
- Calliope Hummingbird**, *Selasphorus calliope* [MD/2012-194]
Tilghman, Talbot County
15-Nov-2012 through 22-Nov-2012
- Say's Phoebe**, *Sayornis saya* [MD/2013-004]
Forest & Stream Club Road, Detour, Carroll County
19-Jan-2013 through 30-Jan-2013
- Western Kingbird**, *Tyrannus verticalis* [MD/2012-003]
Howard Grove Road, Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County
30-Dec-1979 through 31-Dec-1979
- Northern Wheatear**, *Oenanthe oenanthe* [MD/2012-104]
BWI Airport, Hanover, Anne Arundel County
08-Oct-2012
- Le Conte's Sparrow**, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2012-106]
Howard Conservancy, Woodstock, Howard County
25-Oct-2012
- Bullock's Oriole**, *Icterus bullockii* [MD/2013-008]
White Hall, Harford County
08-Jan-2013 through 26-Apr-2013
- Correction:** A correction is necessary to the previous MD/DCRC report for the information associated with the accepted Maryland Sabine's Gull record [MD/ 2012-088] observed 08-12 Sep 2012 at Triadelphia Lake; this bird was observed in both Howard and Montgomery Counties.
- MD Records Accepted-Group:
Aechmophorus species, *Aechmophorus sp.* [MD/2011-401]
Triadelphia Reservoir, Dayton, Howard County
12-Nov-2011

MD Records Not Accepted:

- Barnacle Goose**, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2006-160]
Rising Sun, Cecil County
25-Jan-1997
- Barrow's Goldeneye**, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2010-015]
Point Lookout State Park, Scotland, Saint Mary's County
27-Feb-2010

- Eared Grebe**, *Podiceps nigricollis* [MD/2006-140]
Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County
14-Mar-1972 through 18-Mar-1972
- Masked Booby**, *Sula dactylatra* [MD/2011-386]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County
07-Oct-2011
- Neotropic Cormorant**, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* [MD/2012-072]
Violette's Lock, Seneca, Montgomery County
01-Aug-2012
- Yellow Rail**, *Coturnicops noveboracensis* [MD/2010-174]
E.A. Vaughn WMA, Girdletree, Worcester County
13-Nov-2010
- Black-tailed Gull**, *Larus crassirostris* [MD/2012-147]
Fort Armistead Park, Baltimore City, Baltimore County
01-Nov-2012
- Eurasian Collared-Dove**, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2012-054]
Black Hill Regional Park, Boyds, Montgomery County
11-Jun-2012
- Magnificent Hummingbird**, *Eugenes fulgens* [MD/2012-105]
Robert E Lee Park, Towson, Baltimore County
12-Sep-2012 through 19-Sep-2012
- Northern Shrike**, *Lanius excubitor* [MD/1997-554]
Eyler's Valley Road and Hampton Valley Road, Thurmont, Frederick County
02-Jan-1983
- Mountain Bluebird**, *Sialia currucoides* [MD/2012-044]
Bowie, Prince George's County
15-May-2012
- Sooty Albatross**, *Phoebastria fusca* [MD/2012-191]
Chesapeake Bay, Anne Arundel County
13-Sep-1962
- Sooty Albatross**, *Phoebastria fusca* [MD/2012-192]
Chesapeake Bay, Talbot County
13-Sep-1962

DC Records Accepted:

- White Ibis**, *Eudocimus albus* [DC/2011-372]
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
01-Sep-2010
- White Ibis**, *Eudocimus albus* [DC/2012-084]
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
03-Sep-2012

DC Records Not Accepted:

- Western Grebe**, *Aechmophorus occidentalis* [DC/2013-014]
Hains Point
28-Feb-2013

Annual Opportunity to Aid Bird and Wildlife Conservation

by Maureen Harvey

The Federal Duck Stamp, now called the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, is central to bird conservation in our National Wildlife Refuge System. Created in 1934, the Duck Stamp provides much-needed funding to support scientific wildlife management techniques. Among the birds directly benefiting from Duck Stamp revenues are waterfowl and other water birds, shorebirds, raptors, and wetland-associated songbirds. The current duck stamp serves as your entry pass to any National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Among Maryland birders' most popular birding destinations are Blackwater, Chincoteague, Eastern Neck, and Patuxent NWRs in MD, Bombay Hook and Prime Hook NWRs in DE, and many more within a day's trip in VA and NJ. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Services' Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Report Fiscal Year 2011 (http://www.fws.gov/refuges/realty/pdf/MBCC_2011.pdf), duck stamp dollars enabled acquisition of 273 acres for Bombay Hook NWR (\$455,000) and almost 255 acres for Edwin B. Forsythe NWR in NJ (\$500,500).

Where to get one? Try your local US post office or NWR visitor's center or go to: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm> for several online options, including MD DNR's hunting license link.



Playbacks Revisited

Excerpt from Birding Community E-Bulletin, July 2013 by Maureen Harvey

Some birding debates seem to go on forever, such as the appropriateness of playing recorded birdsongs in the field. Indeed, some birders in the field today began the practice and the discussion when cassette tapes were a novelty and an innovation. But today, it is even easier to access and play bird recordings in the field. Indeed, perhaps it is too easy, or simply too tempting.

The American Birding Association's Code of Ethics recommends that birders "limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area."

This may still seem vague to some folks, or leave certain circumstances unaddressed.

As Mel White recently summarized in a National Geographic blog: "Even in the field, in some situations it may be better to use recordings than not. What's more disruptive, for instance: To play a song and quickly and briefly bring a bird into view so that a group can see it, or to have a dozen people walking around near a nesting site for 20 minutes trying to find it?" You can read his measured approach here:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/06/130614-bird-watching-birdsong-smartphone-app-ethics/>

If you want a standard to evaluate whether or not to use a recording in a place where it's not outright forbidden, try this: If you have any doubt, DON'T use it!

Note: You can access all the past E-bulletins on the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) website: <http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/>. If you want to get onto the monthly E-bulletin mailing list contact either: Wayne R. Petersen, Director, Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program, Mass Audubon, 781/259-2178, wpetersen@massaudubon.org or Paul J. Baicich, Great Birding Projects, 410/992-9736, paul.baicich@verizon.net.

Special Goshawk Fund

By Maureen Harvey & David Brinker



As many of you may remember, during the summer of 2011 a nesting female goshawk was shot in Garrett County. MOS quickly organized a reward fund and received donations towards for information leading to the arrest

and/or prosecution of the poacher of goshawk. Last year DNR's Natural Resources Police told us that discovery of the poacher was unlikely at this point. When the donors were asked if they wanted the funds back, 99% of them opted to have MOS use the funds for Goshawk conservation. Dave Brinker submitted a proposal for digital video monitoring of nesting Northern Goshawks, and he was given the funds to proceed under MD DNR oversight. The primary purpose of the video monitoring is to investigate unusually high goshawk nest failure rates that have been documented in the Central Appalachians. Determining the root cause(s) of the high nest failure rate is an important conservation concern for Northern Goshawks in the Central Appalachian Mountains. Dave purchased gear and assembled the remote nest monitoring systems. He reported that because during the early part of the nesting season no Northern Goshawk nests were located in Maryland this spring, MD DNR loaned the nest monitoring systems to the Central Appalachian Goshawk Project for use in a cooperative project with the Allegheny National Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Dave forwards a big THANK YOU to all who made this project possible. He stressed that the MOS goshawk reward fund was the seed that got this effort up and running and catalyzed cooperation between a diverse set of organizations and individuals involved

continued on page 18

Chapter Chatter continued from page 17

in the project. Important additional funding support for video monitoring that added to what was donated via MOS came from the Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust and the Northern Allegheny Conservation Association. An abridged version of Dave's preliminary summary report follows.

-Maureen Harvey

It has been a very busy spring for field work between goshawks and the state wide colonial waterbird census in Maryland. Since I have not yet had a chance to distribute an e-mail summarizing the Northern Goshawk nest camera pilot study effort in the Allegheny National Forest, I want to take this opportunity to pull together a quick summary and send it around to interested parties and cooperators. There is now a lot of video to review and as field work lessens I will figure out how to put the accumulated video out on the web where interested volunteers can begin helping with review of the videos for related useful observations.

Camera Site Selection

Field work in late April 2013 resulted in the confirmation of 6 active goshawk territories in the Allegheny National Forest. One of the territories had already failed by late April leaving a sample of 5 active territories available for installation of nest cameras. I decided to only place cameras at 2 nests. An important consideration in pilot nest selection was a combination of nest location, geography, nearby habitat conditions and ease of access for battery maintenance and SD card swaps. To put it simply, I picked the two easiest and most reasonable territories to set up at. The two monitored territories will be referred to as territory A and B. The nest tree in territory A was located close to the edge of a fairly extensive selective cut completed prior to serious initiation of breeding activity in late March and the nest tree was within approximately 25 m of the selective cut edge. Territory B was located in an extensive stand of northern hardwoods with no significant nearby edges or nearby disturbance. Both territories were also active in 2012.

Camera Installation

Site A – The nest camera was installed during the late afternoon of 2 May 2013. The installation team consisted of Dave Brinker, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas, and Steve Zanoni. We arrived at the nest site at 14:20 and the climber (Steve) began climbing the adjacent tree that had been selected for placement of the nest camera at 14:30. Total time at the nest site was under 1 hour and 50 minutes. During the camera installation the female flew by the nest area every 10-15 minutes while we were working occasionally vocalizing, but she did not otherwise behave aggressively towards us while we were there. The male was not present during camera installation.

Site B - The nest camera was installed during the late afternoon of 3 May 2013. The installation team consisted of Dave Brinker, Steve Zanoni, and Eric Perlock. We arrived at the nest site at 14:35 and shortly thereafter the climber (Eric) began climbing the adjacent tree that had been selected for placement of the nest camera. Total time at the nest site was under 1 hour and 40

minutes. During the camera installation the female flew by the nest area periodically (again approximately every 10-15 minutes) while we were working, occasionally vocalizing, but she did not otherwise behave aggressively while we were there. The male was not present during camera installation.

The female from nest A returned to the nest and settled in to incubate at 16:34, less than 10 minutes after we had departed the nest tree vicinity. The total time that the eggs in nest A were exposed and un-incubated was 1 hour and 47 minutes. The female from nest B did not return to the nest as quickly as the female from nest A. The first detection of the female near the nest after our departure was at 16:27 when she was seen approaching but not settling on the nest rim. The female finally returned to the nest to settle in at incubation at 19:08. The total time that the eggs in nest B were exposed and un-incubated was 4 hours and 18 minutes.

Banding

Territory A was banded at on 27 May 2013. The female was netted and she was the same female that was nested at this site during 2012. The male did not return with food in a timely manner, and we were not able to net him to verify his identity, although I expect that he is the same male that we banded at this site in 2012. This nest had 3 chicks that were 12-16 days old, two females and one male. Territory B was banded at on 30 May 2013. Both the female and the male were netted. The female had been banded at the site during 2012, but we were not able to capture the male in 2012. Both adults are now banded. This nest had 3 chicks that were 4-8 days old, two females and one male.

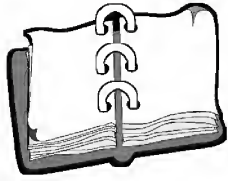
Current Nest Status

Both nests successfully fledged their chicks.

Maryland 2013 Nest Surprise

In late June an active Northern Goshawk nest was located in Garrett County. Unfortunately this nest was found too late in the 2013 breeding season to have a video camera installed. Dave did manage to band the male associated with the nest which successfully fledged two chicks in early July. The male is probably the goshawk that lost its mate in the 2011 shooting incident that stayed on territory in Garrett County and eventually recruited a new mate this past spring. If the nest for this newly formed pair is located in April of 2014 an opportunity will exist to use the video monitoring equipment at a Maryland nest site – only time will tell.

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MOS Calendar

Sep - Oct 2013

By Andy Martin

Saturday, August 31

🏠 Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch Kickoff. Join us for the traditional kick-off to the annual Turkey Point Hawk Watch, which runs every day from Labor Day weekend through Thanksgiving. Walk through the woods and fields for migrant songbirds. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are hilly sections. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Meet 7 AM at the Turkey Point parking lot. Leader: Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

🏠 Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Balt. Meet 8 AM at the White House just inside the west edge of the park at intersection of S. Patterson Park Ave and Lombard St. For questions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

Sunday, September 1

🏠 Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 AM at the Vollmer Center parking lot (4915 Greenspring Ave) for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Monday, September 2

🏠 Harford. Ma and Pa Trail. We return to this newest segment of Harford Co's iconic rails-to-trails Ma and Pa conversion project. Diverse habitat along the way promises a variety of birds. Meet at Annie's playground on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston at 7:30 AM. The leader is Susan Hood, 410-877-0574 or susanhhood@comcast.net.

Tuesday, September 3

🏠 Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. A series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome. Meet 8 AM. Directions: At the Willow Grove Farm Entrance, follow road, cross a small bridge, and park in lot on left. Leader: Ruth Culburtson, 410-825-1379 or ruthec@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: Binoculars and spotting telescopes, with *Pete Webb*. What's out there and what you want to buy. Bring any and all working optics you have for our comparison demo! Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, September 4

🏠 Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and

wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Birding in the Low Countries of Europe" by *Gary Van Velsir*. 7:30 PM at the Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program and Speaker: TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, September 5

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Jim Brighton* will tell us about the Maryland Biodiversity Project. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info contact Tom Humphrey, or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

🏠 Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballev Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.

Friday, September 6

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** *Katharine Clark*, Natural Resources, Naval Support Activity (Greenbury Point), will talk briefly about the work underway at Greenbury Point and identify volunteer opportunities for AABC members. Also, two 15-minute PowerPoint presentations on the "Birds of Peru" and "Eggs and Oologists," demonstrations on birding equipment, youth outreach, citizen science, poster displays and donation tables of items for our fund raising raffle. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville. Optional beginner's bird walk at 6 PM starting at the Arlington Echo Field House. Info: Colin Rees, reescolin@hotmail.com.

Saturday September 7


🏠 Anne Arundel. Let's Wing It. New for 2013 is a series of trips scheduled once a month called "Let's Wing It." The idea is to meet up and select a destination based on recent reports of bird activity. Since we don't know where we will end up, it's wise to bring boots and insect repellent. We will leave Parole P&R shortly after 8 AM and conclude the trip around noon. Leader: Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.


🏠 Baltimore. North Point SP. Meet 8 AM in the parking lot just after the toll booth. There is a fee of \$3 per car to enter the park. We will walk down the path to Black Marsh Wildlands, a great spot for various wetland birds, raptors, warblers, and flycatchers. Scopes very useful. Path tends to be very muddy, and don't forget your bug spray. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net, or 410-823-2962.


🏠 Harford. Rocks SP. Take in one of the fine MD forest

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preserves; it flanks Deer Creek not far from its headwaters, offering extensive bird-friendly woodland habitats. Meet leader Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com at the park HQ parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd at 7 AM.

 **Howard.** Rockburn Branch Park. Meet 8 AM in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. The park gate is just beyond Rockburn ES. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. Leaders: Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.


 **Kent.** Beginner's Bird Walk. Brampton Inn, Chestertown. Half day. By special arrangement with the owners of this local B&B, we'll take a leisurely walk among wood margins, fields, and small ponds looking for late breeders and early autumn migrants. Meet 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot in downtown Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull61@gmail.com. Note this date is awaiting confirmation with Inn, contact Walter and Nancy to make sure trip is on.


 **Montgomery.** Upper Watts Branch Park. Half day. Migrant warblers, vireos, thrushes, and assorted woodland residents. Meet 8 AM at corner of Princeton Pl and Fordham St. Reservations required. Limit: 12. Leader: Paul O'Brien, 301-424-6491.

MOS BOARD MEETING. 10 AM. Location and host TBD. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary at janetbill@prodigy.net for additional info.

 **Patuxent.** Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.


Sunday, September 8

 **Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for early waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Crk. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM (contact leaders for meet location). Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or brineer@verizon.net, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.


 **Caroline.** Camp Todd Girl Scout Camp, 25012 Beauchamp Branch Rd. Meet at the camp's parking area near the ranger's home at 8 AM. Leader: Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com.

Tuesday, September 10

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** The speaker will be *Holly Robertson* and the title will be "Caribbean Birding Trail." 7 PM at Compton Hall, Frostburg State U., Frostburg. For info contact Mary Huebner at marybrd22@gmail.com.


 **Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Ron Davis, 410-821-1297 or 2athigh1@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and Speaker TBA. 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.


 **Montgomery.** Rock Creek Park, DC. One-third day. Migrant warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Rd, half-mile below the Nature Center). Reservations required. For reservations and directions, call the leader, Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** "The Future for Maryland's Salt Marsh Birds: Audubon's Salt Marsh Conservation Initiative," by *David Curson*. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call 301-509-2212 or go to <http://www.pgaudubon.org/programs.html>.

Wednesday, September 11

 **Montgomery.** Little Bennett RP. Half day. Meet 7:30 AM to bird some of the trails of Little Bennett RP for migrant and resident birds. Expect to walk 2-3 miles on gravel and dirt trails, with some uphill. Beginners welcome! Reservations required. Limit: 8. For reservations and directions, contact Claire Wolfe, 301-972-4278 or c_wolfe2003@yahoo.com.

Thursday, September 12

 **Howard.** Middle Patuxent EA. Meet 7:30 AM at the Clegg Meadow off Southwind Cir, Columbia. Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. If time and birds warrant, we will also do the Trotter Rd Loop. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails. No facilities. Leader: Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.


MEETING. **Howard.** "Birding in Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia," by *Dave and Maureen Harvey*. In June of 2012 these well-traveled, skilled birders saw over 300 species of which 280 were life birds. Hospitality, 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 66692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

Saturday, September 14

FALL COUNT. **Allegany/Garrett.** Chuck Hager will be the compiler for the 22nd Annual Fall Count. Contact Chuck at 301-689-5344 or drhager@verizon.net for area assignments.

FALL COUNT. **Baltimore.** We will tally all birds seen within the City and County during this calendar day. Birders of all levels of experience are welcome and urged to participate. To avoid duplication of counting, contact compiler Joel Martin, 410-744-9211 or jcdlmartin@aol.com, for area assignment.

FALL COUNT. **Washington.** Contact Doris Berger at 301-739-8907 to participate.

 **YMOS.** Young Birder's Conference, Ashland Nature
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Center, Hockessin, DE. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com for details if interested.

Frederick. Frederick Watershed. Search for migrating fall warblers. Leader: Mike Welch, 301-685-3561.

Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. One-third day. Migrant warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Meet 6:45 AM at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Rd, half-mile below the Nature Center). Note the earlier meeting time necessary to secure a parking spot. Reservations required. For reservations and directions, call the leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

Patuxent. Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay. 7 AM boat trip and Picnic. Join Greg Kearns on a pontoon boat to search for Soras, Least Bitterns, and other marshbirds followed by land birding and a pot-luck picnic. Reservations are required if you want a guaranteed place on the boat (\$5 charge to cover the cost of the boat). Contact Maureen Blades, mblades@comcast.net for more reservations.

Sunday, September 15

FALL COUNT. **Kent.** Full day. Help us count birds in as much of Kent Co as possible in a single day; join a field party or cover your neighborhood anywhere in the county. Contact one of the leaders for more info. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull61@gmail.com.

Anne Arundel. Biking Tour of the North Tract. Meet at the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract with bicycles and observe the Refuge like never before. Riding should allow us to see areas that are not accessible by car. Bring water, a snack, your bike, and binoculars. We will meet at the North Tract Visitor Center at 7 AM and should finish around 11 AM. The roads are paved, but the trails are dirt covered and hard. The Visitor Center has facilities. Leader: Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Mary Anne Fluke, 443-690-4319 or mflukey62@gmail.com.

Harford. Perryville and North East Community. Take advantage of the two hot spots and meet leaders Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net and Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net at 7 AM at the P&R at MD Rtes 155 and I-95.

Montgomery. Wheaton RP. Half day. Fall is the best time to find migrant warblers, vireos, and flycatchers (Yellow-bellied is a good possibility) in this interesting park. Reservations required. Limit: 10. For more info and reservations, contact Jared Fisher at Jared.Fisher@gmail.com.

Tuesday, September 17

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Wednesday, September 18

Howard. Mt. Pleasant Farm, Howard Co Conservancy. Meet 7:30 AM at parking lot. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Prime time for sparrows. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader: Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329 or LBRoller@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** "Maryland Biodiversity Project." Jim Brighton will provide an overview of this important MD project. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at urcioloa@sidwell.edu.

Washington. Washington Monument Hawk Watch. Meet at the monument around 8:30 AM for a morning of hawk watching. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, 240-291-6465, to register, as space is limited.

Thursday, September 19

MEETING. **Caroline.** Program: "Bird Banding at Chester River Field Research Station." Speaker: Dan Small. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.

Saturday, September 21

FALL COUNT. **Anne Arundel.** Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate in this day-long activity. Contact Dave Gillum at 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net to coordinate your counting location.

FALL COUNT. **Caroline.** Contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com to help out.

FALL COUNT. **Carroll.** Full day. Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas, to count resident and late migrant bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird counting area (jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716). Tally Rally will be hosted by Maureen Harvey at her home. If you will be attending the Tally, please RSVP to Maureen at 410-795-3117 no later than Sep 18 and bring a cash donation (\$5) or food item.

FALL COUNT. **Dorchester.** Compiler: Henry T. Armistead, 215-248-4120, harryarmistead@hotmail.com.
Rain date: Sunday Sep 22.

FALL COUNT. **Frederick.** Compiler: Michael Welch, 301-685-3561 or manddwelch@comcast.net.


FALL COUNT. **Harford.** Contact Rick Cheicante for details at 410-803-2712 or rcheicante@cs.com.


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FALL COUNT. Howard. Compiler: Mike McClure, 410-531-2780 or Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu.


Please go to the following link to sign up, <http://howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm>.


 **FALL COUNT. YMOS.** Taylor's Island, Dorchester Co. This is one of the Fall Bird Counts held around the State. We'll begin early (4 AM), but there will be overnight lodging provided near the location for participating birders. The trip is open to anyone, but because it is a very long day, it is not recommended for beginning birders. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com for details if interested.


 **Anne Arundel.** Family Bird Walk at Kinder Farm Park. Meet 9 AM in the parking area next to Visitor Center. Park has paved, level trails. Leader: Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com.

 **Baltimore.** Broad-winged Hawks at Cromwell Valley Park. Jim Meyers will take us for a short walk along a stream-side path, then head up to hawk watch site for Broad-wings and other raptors. Beginning birders welcome. Bring lunch if you'd like to stay all day. Meet 8 AM. Directions: at the Willow Grove Farm Entrance, follow road, cross a small bridge, and park in lot on left. Leader: Jim Meyers, 410-665-2440 or jamesleomeyers@mac.com.


 **Harford.** Susquehanna SP. Visit a prime Harford Co birding spot. The various habitats found here attract a diverse variety of passerines, raptors, and waterfowl. Meet 7 AM at the Rock Run Mill. Led by Les Eastman, 410-734-6969 or les@birdtreks.com and Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com.

 **Howard.** Hawk Watch at Meadowbrook. Meet 9:30 AM at hawk watch site on hilltop. Bring a chair and sustenance for however long you plan to stay. Harry will provide tips on separating species in flight. The park provides paved path for walking. Ponds and great sparrow habitat should provide other birding opportunities. Sun protection is recommended. Facilities available. Cancelled in inclement weather. Leader: Harry Fink, harry@mdphelp.com or 410-446-4747.

 **Montgomery.** Snickers Gap, VA. Two-thirds day. Joint trip with ANS. Migrant songbird watching at 8 AM along nearby Appalachian Trail, migrant raptors possible starting at 9:30 AM. Meet place/time: 8 AM at commuter parking lot at VA Rtes 7 and 601. Make reservation with leaders Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams, 703-734-1238. Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, lunch, and rain/wind gear.

 **Patuxent.** Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22


 **Washington.** Visit Canaan Valley, Dolly Sods Wilderness


area, and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory. This is a wonderful trip for photography as well as birding. Lodging is on your own. Call George Warrick, 301-799-9059 for details.


Sunday, September 22

FALL COUNT. Calvert. Compiler: Sherman Suter, Port Republic, MD 20787, 202-326-6523, ssuter@aaas.org.


FALL COUNT. Prince George's. Compiler: Dave Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 or mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

 **Baltimore.** Chimney Swifts at Dusk. Join the BBC Swift-Watch Team for "Swift Night Out" as Chimney Swifts pour into one of their favorite chimneys. This trip will meet 6:45 PM. Swifts have been switching nightly roosting sites in recent years, so check the BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/members/) on Sep 20 to see if this event will involve two locations simultaneously. Come a half hour early if the weather is cloudy or gray. Cancelled if raining. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

 **Howard.** Western RP. Meet 8 AM at Carr's Mill Rd lot. Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Small pond may host shorebirds. Facilities available. Leader: Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net or 443-285-3302.


 **Montgomery.** Pennyfield to Violette's Bird Stalk. Half day. For folks who prefer a somewhat later start to their birding, we will meet at 9 AM at Violette's Lock parking lot, at the end of Violette's Lock Rd. We will carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk up the C&O Canal towpath to Violette's Lock. For reservations, contact leader Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net or 301-530-6574.

Tuesday, September 24


 **Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Paul Noell, 410-243-2652 or myconut@verizon.net.

MEETING. Washington. 7 PM at Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Program: Hawk ID Workshop with Sandy Sagalkin. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Wednesday, September 25

 **Harford.** Eden Mill. Join us for a mid-week walk along scenic Falling Branch Rd. Various migrants should be seen in the rural habitats we will pass. Meet leader Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com at the Park Pavilion at 7 AM.

Saturday, September 28

 **Anne Arundel.** Lake Roland by Rail. We will venture up into Balt City for this trip, but not by car. Meet at 7 AM at Cromwell Station to take the Light Rail to the Falls Rd Station. From this station we will use the boardwalk to Robert E. Lee Park and Lake Roland. Fall migration should be well under way at this time. The

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park has paved and dirt trails with moderate hills. Leader: Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Balt. Meet 8 AM at the White House just inside the west edge of the park at intersection of S. Patterson Park Ave and Lombard St. For questions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

Baltimore. Youth birding at Cromwell Valley Park. Ages 8-15 with parent. Join expert birders Marty Brazeau and John Robinson to learn about how to bird with other youth birders. Learn how to use field guides and iPod apps to locate birds. Meet time 8:30 AM. Please register for this program by calling Cromwell Valley Park at 410-887-2503. Please also contact the leader, Marty Brazeau to let him know you plan on attending and find out exact meet spot, 410-583-0275 or tropicbird@verizon.net.

Harford. Harford Glen. The Glen offers varied habitat attractive to many avian species, especially at migration time. Don't miss this prime season and location for some great bird-watching! Join Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net at the lower parking lot at 7 AM.

Kent. Bombay Hook NWR. The salt marshes of DE Bay host large numbers of waterfowl, gulls, marshbirds, shorebirds, and raptors. All day, bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terr) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull61@gmail.com.

Montgomery. Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay NA. Joint trip with ANS. Driftboat on Patuxent River followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. Meeting time/place: 6:30 AM at park entrance gate. Bring fee of \$5/person for park program; boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. Leaders: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. Limit: 15. For reservations, contact Pam Oves at ANS, 301-652-9188 ext 16 or poves@audubonnaturalist.org.

Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29

Patuxent. Kiptopeake. Overnight trip to the southern tip of the Delmarva peninsula. The area has spectacular concentrations of migrant songbirds and hawks. Contact the leader, Marcia Watson, mww@udel.edu for reservations and more info.

Sunday, September 29

Caroline. Bird Banding observation in Chestertown with Jim Gruber, Bander. 8 AM. Great for kids. Adults welcome too. To register and for directions, contact Danny Poet at 410-827-8651 or birder231@hotmail.com.

Howard. Fungi Search. Explore local parkland for a variety of fall fungi. Site TBD. May be cancelled if weather has been exceedingly dry. Contact Bob/Jo Solem at odenata@msn.com for more info.

Montgomery. Catoctin Mountains. Full day. Bring food, water. Focus on migrant songbirds, but time will be spent discussing wildflowers, insects, and other general natural history topics. Reservations required. Limit: 14. Co-leaders: Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton. For reservations and directions, email Bill Hubick at bill_hubick@yahoo.com.

Tri-County. Assateague National Seashore. Searching for coastal migrants. Meet 7:30 AM Ward Museum parking lot. Bring lunch and drinks. Contact leader: Sam Dyke, 410-603-7615 for directions and more details.

Tuesday, October 1

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: John Landers, 410-426-3374 or dado1bw@aol.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: Our Reservoir Forest Watch by *Eugene Meyer, Michael DeFilippi, and Carol Schreter*. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, October 2

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Access Matters-Why Birders Should Care" by *Paul Baicich*, 7:30 PM at the Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program and Speaker: TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, October 3

MEETING. **Frederick.** 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. *Tom Mathews* will tell us about restoring habitat for American Woodcock and others. For info contact Tom Humphrey, or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.

Friday, October 4

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "The Wonderful World of Whoopers" by *Ken Lavish*, Volunteer and Environmental Educator. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville. Info: Colin Rees, reescolin@hotmail.com.

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Saturday, October 5

Harford. Swan Harbor Farm Park. This preserved area near the upper bay provides prime habitat for waterfowl, songbirds, and marsh and fieldbirds. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot at the end of the driveway. Contact leader Dave Webb at 410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net for further info.

Montgomery and Frederick. Lilypons Water Gardens. Half day. Target species include American Bittern, Nelson's/Lincoln's Sparrow, and a variety of raptors. Meet 7:30 AM at Lilypons. Reservations required. For reservations and directions, contact the leader: Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or robert.schaefer@gmail.com.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.

Washington. Blair's Valley. Enjoy a ½ day trip to Blair's Valley and surrounding area. Meet at the MVA parking lot at 7 AM. Call 301-797-8454 if planning to attend.

YMOS. Youth birding trip to Cape May for Hawkwatch. Though a long day, this is a great trip for all levels of birders. We'll form carpools for transportation and spend the day in Cape May during the peak of raptor migration. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com for details if interested

Sunday, October 6

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Mary Anne Fluke, 443-690-4319 or mfluke62@gmail.com.

Cecil. Environmental Education Day at the Turkey Point Hawk Watch. Join Maryanne Dolan, Dave Kimball, Pat Valdata, and folks from Elk Neck SP to learn more about hawk watching. No experience necessary! Free and open to the public. Bring binoculars if you have them. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Howard. Mt. Pleasant Farm, Howard Co Conservancy. Meet 8 AM at parking lot. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Prime time for sparrows. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader: Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net.

Kent. Turkey Point and Elk Neck. This migration hot spot concentrates large numbers of migrants at the north end of Chesapeake Bay. We will take a leisurely walk to the lighthouse, stopping for a while at the hawk watch along the way. Bring lunch. Meet at 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot in downtown Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull61@gmail.com.

Tuesday, October 8

MEETING. Allegany/Garrett. The speaker will be *Wil Hershberger* and the title will be "A Celebration of Bird Song." 7 PM at Compton Hall, Frostburg State U., Frostburg. For info contact Mary Huebner at marybrd22@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Ron Davis, 410-821-1297 or 2athigh1@verizon.net.

MEETING. Kent. Program and Speaker TBA. 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MEETING. Patuxent. "Birding Panama" by *Hugh Simmons*. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call 301-509-2212 or go to <http://www.pgadubon.org/programs.html>.

Wednesday, October 9

Montgomery. Sparrow Search. Meet 7 AM. Be prepared to walk in long, wet grass and in muddy areas. The meeting place will be determined by the leader at a later date. Likely sparrows: White-throated, Swamp, Song, maybe White-crowned. Possible more difficult species: Clay-colored and Nelson's Sparrows. Limit: 8. For info and reservations, call the leader: Dave Powell at 301-540-8776.

Thursday, October 10

MEETING. Howard. "Hummingbirds of the Mid-Atlantic Region," by *Bruce Peterjohn*, Chief of the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory. This presentation will summarize our current knowledge of the status of hummingbirds across the mid-Atlantic region with an emphasis on the wintering species. Hospitality, 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 66692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

Friday to Monday, October 11 to 14

Washington. Cape May Fall Raptor Trip. Trip will focus on several hawk-watching sites in the area. Participants may also choose from a variety of activities offered by the Cape May Bird Observatory. Transportation and accommodations are on your own. Contact trip leader Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 to register.

Saturday, October 12

BIG SIT. Anne Arundel. Ft. Smallwood Park. It is a social gathering that typically ends by 5 PM when the final holdouts call it a day. Meet 7 AM at southeastern corner of the Ft. Smallwood Park, between the Chesapeake Bay and the pond. Bring a comfortable chair and snacks. Coordinator: Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674 or tabslab@aol.com.

BIG SIT. Cecil. Turkey Pointers BIG SIT! Our count circle will be based at the big cedar tree near the Lighthouse at Turkey Point. Chris Starling will be our official counter. Chris and Sean

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will start at 4:30 AM; you can come whenever you like and stay for as long as you like. It is not necessary to contact the leader before this event, just come on out any time during the day. Info: Chris Starling, cstar.email@gmail.com or Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

BIG SIT. Kent. Tubby Cove Platform, Eastern Neck NWR. Join the Kentish Plovers, starting at dawn or any time until mid-afternoon (early morning has best diversity). Contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin for more info or to sign up: 410-778-9568 or rossgull61@gmail.com.

Allegany/Garrett. Town Hill. Meet Ray Kiddy to watch for migrating hawks at a time of year when there is still good hawk diversity but also when we may have a better chance for some more interesting birds like Golden Eagles. Meet 9 AM at the Ali Ghan and Christie Rds P&R (off I-68, east of Cumberland). Bring lunch and a drink. Contact Ray at 301-729-1972 or rrkiddy@atlanticbb.net for info and to make a reservation.

Baltimore. Cape May Hawkwatch. Meet 7 AM at Cromwell Bridge Rd P&R. All-day excursion, bring lunch, to spend day mostly at the hawk watch platform at Cape May observing hawks flying by, with possible uncommon seabirds in view out over the water. Optional walks around the impoundment for migrant waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. Rain date Oct 19. Leaders: Pete Webb, 443 904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

Caroline. Tuckahoe SP. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651 or birder231@hotmail.com. Meet at the Caroline Co side of lake parking lot at 7:30 AM.

Howard. Sparrow Big Day. Full day. Limit: 12. Search the wetland and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Going for 12 species! Previous years have turned up non-sparrow rarities! Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. Contact Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net, 443-285-3302 to sign up and get info.

Sunday, October 13

BIG SIT. Montgomery. Join the Sitting Ducks at Black Hill RP starting at dawn and continuing until ? Come for the day or just a few hours. Meet at the dike across the road from the park boat ramp. For more info or directions, contact the leader: Chuck Parker at 240-446-8423 or chparker@access.k12.wv.us.

Allegany/Garrett. Dan's Rock (co-sponsored with Home Ground). Meet 9 AM at Dan's Rock for hawk watching with Bird Club and Home Ground members. Contact Mary Huebner, arybrd22@gmail.com or 301-777-0545 for more info.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for early waterfowl, raptors, and passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM (contact leaders for meet location). Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or brineer@verizon.net, and Brent and

Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Harford. Cromwell Valley Park. Expect surprises during late fall migration at this Balt Co park. Meet at 7:30 AM at the P&R on Fallston Rd (Rte 152) just north of Harford Rd (Rte 147). Contact leader, Phil Powers at 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

Monday, October 14

Harford. Waggoner's Gap. Enjoy miles and miles of spectacular fall views from this beautiful PA mountain top perch as you also scan the horizon and sky for a variety of migrating raptors. Meet leader Mark Johnson, 410-692-5978 or mark.steven.johnson@comcast.net at 8 AM at shopping center near intersection of Rtes 152 and 165.

Howard. Elkhorn Garden Plots. The plots are on the east side of Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. The Garden Plots offer excellent opportunities for unusual sparrows, migrant passerines, and interesting late season butterflies. Meet 8:30 AM. No facilities. Leader: Jim Wilkinson, 410-381-9250 or lakekoshare@gmail.com.

Tuesday, October 15

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Chris Davidson, 410-828-1325.

Thursday, October 17

MEETING. Caroline. Program: "A Wild Curlew Chase: Two Birders in Alaska" Speaker: *Ron Gutherlet*. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballev Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.

Saturday, October 19

Anne Arundel. Family Bird Walk at Kinder Farm Park. Meet 9 AM in the parking area next to Visitor Center. Park has paved, level trails. Leader: Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

Carroll. Morgan Run. Meet 8 AM at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Ln. Moderate but long hike. Looking for late migrants or some early winter birds. Leader: Bill Ellis, 443-520-8809.

Frederick. Fall at Fred Archibald. Fall sparrows, migrants, and any number of surprises can occur at this Audubon Sanctuary. Leader: Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or Pat Caro.

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Harford. Havre de Grace - Kayaking for Birds. We will launch kayaks from Tydings Park to maneuver for better views of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds along this shoreline of the upper Bay. Meet leaders Sue Procell and Colleen Webster there at 8 AM. Reservations required. Contact Colleen at cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577 for info about kayak rental, reservations, or other details.

Howard. Lake Elkhorn. Meet 8 AM at Dockside Parking lot. Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Migrants will be moving through. Warblers are generally in abundance. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. Hawks are also possible flying over. No facilities. Leader: Allen Lewis, allenlewis@gmail.com.

Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

Tri-County. Chino Farms in Chestertown. Migrating sparrows, raptors and other birds. Bring lunch and drinks. Meet time 6:30 AM. Contact leaders, Larry and Jean Fry, 410-208-4269 for add'l details.

Sunday, October 20

Anne Arundel. Let's Wing It. See Sep 7 trip description. Leader: Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

Baltimore. Irvine Nature Center. With forest, field, and marsh this 116 acre site has an extensive trail system and is full of promises. Expect between 45 and 55 species with plenty of "little brown job" birds. Possible Red-headed Woodpecker and Lincoln's Sparrow. Meet at the center, contact leader for exact time. Leader: Kye Jenkins, 410 628-7257 or kyebird54@gmail.com.

Howard. West Friendship Park. Meet 8 AM at shopping center just west of Rtes 32 and 144. Will carpool to nearby park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. Rustic facilities. Leaders: Jeff Culler, cullersful@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006 and Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329 or LBRoller@verizon.net.

Tuesday, October 22

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Meet 8 AM. See Sep 3 listing. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Washington.** 7 PM, Mt. Aetna Nature Center. A pot-luck dinner starting at 6 PM will precede the meeting. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Program TBA. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Wednesday, October 23

MEETING. **Montgomery.** Program and speaker TBD. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at urcioloa@sidwell.edu.

Saturday, October 26

Anne Arundel. Cape May. Cape May is considered by many to be the premier spot to observe migrant birds. We will meet very early at Parole P&R to give us as much daylight in southern NJ as possible. Bring snacks, plenty of water, your binoculars, and scope. The terrain could vary from sandy beaches to wet marshes, so bring appropriate attire and foot wear. There should be facilities at some of the places we visit. Pre-registration required by Oct 23, in case the trip is cancelled due to inclement weather. Leader: George Thomas, 410-647-5082 or glt553@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Balt. Meet 8 AM at the White House just inside the west edge of the park at intersection of S. Patterson Park Ave and Lombard St. For questions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

Caroline. Lynch Preserve, Two Johns. Park/meet 8 AM at the end of Robins Creek Rd. Leader: Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com.

Harford. Turkey Point Owl/Hawk Watch. Meet Bird bander Ken Heselton at 5 AM at his motor home that will be parked in the Turkey Point Trail parking lot. If he has had a successful night netting and banding owls he will be able to show us examples of these always fascinating nocturnal birds. Alternatively, meet 6:30 AM in the same parking lot to bird the trail. If you are not familiar with the route, call for directions. Leaders: Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonl1d@aol.com and Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 27

Montgomery. Oaks Landfill. Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit: 16. Meet at 8 AM. Contact the leaders for reservations and more info. Co-leaders: Mark England, 240-207-3132 (h) or 240-375-4500 (m), and Ed Patten, 301-948-5648.

Friday, November 1

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Using Birds to Connect Youth to the Natural World," *George Radcliffe*, Coordinator, YMOS. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd. Info: Colin Rees, reescolin@hotmail.com.

Saturday, November 2

ANNUAL BANQUET. **Allegany/Garrett.** Topic and speakers:

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TBA. Gathering starts at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6 PM. The event is at the Frostburg United Methodist Church. Please contact Charlotte Folk for dinner reservations at 301-689-6587 or mail your check to her at 179 Mt Pleasant St, Frostburg. The cost for the dinner is \$15.

Carroll and Howard. Dickey Farm, Howard Co. Meet 8 AM at the P&R on MD Rte 32 just north of I-70. Moderate but long hike. Good mixed habitat, expect good sparrow numbers. Leader Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117.

Frederick. Hawk Watch at Town Hill. Leader: Tom Humphrey, 301-696-8540.

Harford. Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the trails of this Deer Crk woodland to enjoy the late fall avian spectacle. Gather at the ranger station parking area on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd at 8 AM. Leader: Mark Magnani, 410-838-1778 or mmagnani@peoplepc.com.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.

Washington. Lambs Knoll. Observe Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, camera, and be prepared to stay as late as midnight. Meet at 9:15 PM at the Boonsboro P&R next to Thompson's Gas. Registration is limited. Call Anna at 301-797-8454 to register.

YMOs. Chincoteague NWR. Herons, waterfowl, skimmers, raptors, and thrushes. This is a great opportunity to get a good look at a lot of bird species. Waterfowl will be back, and Chincoteague provides a unique opportunity to explore many types of habitats. Full day, 5 AM to 8 PM. Lodging will be provided either Fri and/or Sat night for students coming from a distance. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com for details if interested.

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3

MOS. Irish Grove Fall Workdays. Please contact Dotty Mumford, 410-849-8336 for more info and to RSVP. User fees are waived for the workdays.

Sunday, November 3

Anne Arundel. Piney Orchard Nature Preserve. The Piney Orchard Nature Preserve is a wetland restoration project nestled within the community. We should arrive at the Preserve by 8:30 AM and finish by noon. The trails have very little elevation changes. No facilities are available. Leader: Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

Howard. Centennial Park. Meet 8 AM West end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Leader: Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.

net, 410-461-2408.

Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Full day (to dusk). Early waterfowl, sparrows, and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit: 12. For meeting place, time, and reservations, contact the leader: Andy Martin at martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066 (cell).

Washington. Waggoner's Gap. Visit the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch near Carlisle for Golden Eagles. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, 240-291-6465, for travel arrangements and to register.

Tuesday, November 5

MEETING. Baltimore. Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: "Winged Seduction: Birds of Paradise." National Geographic video on expedition to New Guinea to film all 39 species of Birds of Paradise. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, November 6

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. Carroll. "Birding in Western Alaska" by Phil Davis. 7:30 PM at the Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. Cecil. Program and Speaker: TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.



The 2013 winning pin design by Diane Ford. Article page 5.

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Permit No. 184

The Maryland Yellowthroat
Newsletter of the Maryland
Ornithological Society, Inc.

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*Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other birders.
Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
Sep 25, 2013 for the Nov/Dec 2013 issue.*

Illustrations pp. 1,6 ©M. Suzanne Probst

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